

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: National Museums of Kenya

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Kachororoni Saintpaulia Conservation Project*

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): October 1, 2007 - December 31, 2008

Date of Report (March / 2009):

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The gorge of the Rare River at Kachororoni is formed on one of the most northerly Jurassic Kambe limestone outcrops at the coast. This type of formation supports an especially high diversity of plants. Most noteworthy is the presence of a wild population of *Saintpauliam* spp, the African violet which has been extensively cultured and domesticated throughout the world as an indoor plant. It is found on the almost vertical valley sides in shaded spots. The population at Kachororoni is largest on any one site at the Kenya coast and is thought to be a distinct species.

Kachororoni is one of the few sites where *saintpaulia* occurs in the wild Kenya and the East African Coast. It is not to be found outside the region. This fact as well as the scenic beauty of the gorge is felt to offer an opportunity for ecotourism or at the very least environmental or conservation education. Attaching a value to the plant may induce the local people to protect the site which is important natural heritage.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The primary objectives of the project were:

- I. To promote in-situ conservation and monitoring of *saintpaulia* populations at the kachororoni gorge
- II. Initiate sustainable ecotourism development for improved livelihood
- III. Strengthening the local community conservation group to enhance protection and management of the site.

Activities included the following:

- Mapping and documenting the site
- Educating and mobilizing local community
- Preparation site trails for visitation
- Preparation of promotional materials

- Construction of visitor centre

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The objectives of the project did not change much over the period. However it was realized that numbers of visitors to this fairly remote site would never be high and that it should also be a focus for local school conservation awareness and education. It was important to promote other income earning activities as well besides tourism.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The project was reasonably successful in some areas but much remained to do in others as below:

In Situ Conservation and Monitoring

A survey was done of saintpaulia plants on the site. Population clusters were identified and counts made. GPS readings were also undertaken for future monitoring. 31 clusters were recorded with 708 healthy plants of which 94 were in flower by mid – November 2008. However some areas could not be assessed due to inaccessibility.

A boundary outline was demarcated to enclose the saintpaulia on the steep slope and in consultation with local community group members. They participated voluntarily in making the demarcation which also serves as a path. The line is being maintained by community members especially as a precaution against fire.

The Community group established a roster for members to keep a watch and patrol the site. They formulated by-laws for site protection in collaboration with the local administration including penalties for offenders.

Initiate Sustainable Ecotourism Development

Attractive areas for visiting within the gorge were identified primarily clusters of saintpaulia on the rock formations but also caves featuring bats and shrines.

Visitor trails incorporating the above have been proposed but are not fully developed.

Identification of local youth for tour guiding has started. Those interested are required to be members of the group.

A visitor centre comprising an open banda meeting and display area and storage was constructed to completion. The facility is located near the local primary school to link the school with conservation activities in the future.

Strengthening the local conservation group

The local conservation group received training in many aspects of group organization and management for conservation and development activities. As indicated above they

have instituted guarding at the site. They have established good working relations with the local school and church.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The main setback was the delay in disbursement which has led to a shortened period of implementation. In addition the resources required to fully implement the project were greatly underestimated meaning that many areas remain to be completed.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Although as stated above the grant was not sufficient to complete all activities and actually initiate the enterprise, a very substantial amount of work was done with what was provided. It is important to start a viable initiative with what is available and often the momentum will be taken up by others as is hoped will happen in this case.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The National Museums of Kenya CFCU is already searching for funds internally and with donors to carry out follow-up activities to ensure success of the initiative including:

- Preparing material for exhibition and show to visitors at centre
- Complete trail development
- Community guide training
- Marketing materials, brochures etc
- Continue research and documentation on the site
- Possible gazettement of the site for legal protection
- Income earning activities such as beekeeping etc.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. 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
-------	------------------	--------	-------

		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

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

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The importance of an approach such as CEPF has undertaken to provide small grants to projects with some potential cannot be underestimated. Such grants are hard to come by but may be what is needed to start off many promising initiatives. Seed money.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Amini Tengeza / Anthony Githitho

Organization name: National Museums of Kenya Coastal Forest Conservation Unit CFCU

Mailing address: Box 596 Kilifi, Kenya

Tel: 254 – 0733 440799 / 254 – 0722 487249

Fax:

E-mail: cfcukilifi@yahoo.com / atengeza@yahoo.com