

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## KWALE HERBAL PRODUCTS CENTRE

### I. BASIC DATA

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	National Museums of Kenya
<b>Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):</b>	<i>Kwale Herbal and Beauty Production Centre</i>
<b>Implementation Partners for This Project:</b>	WWF, Ford Foundation
<b>Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):</b>	January 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009
<b>Date of Report:</b>	August 2009

### II. OPENING REMARKS

An important strategy in the conservation of coastal forests is promotion of nature-based production and enterprise linked to the conservation resource to provide local communities with alternatives to unsustainable exploitation.

The low level of awareness on ways to add value to natural products however means that rural communities are not deriving the most benefit from what they make. Cottage production of such items as neem and aloe soap goes but quality assurance and standards have been identified as a crucial need.

The purpose of establishing the Kwale herbal products centre is to help forest adjacent communities prepare more marketable finished products. The centre would provide a physical base, training and marketing support managed by the farmers themselves. Rent costs tended to prevent small community groups from developing their capacity.

The CEPF project grant was for US\$ 12 030.00 channeled through the National Museums of Kenya Coastal Forest Conservation Unit. It worked closely with the WWF-supported Kwale Forest Landscape Project operating in the same area.

The landscape project had also identified funds from the Ford Foundation to support similar activities and it was agreed that the two implementing bodies work together.

### III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

#### 1. What was the initial objective of this project?

- Establishing a production and training centre for processing herbal beauty products in Kwale District

- Establish links with Community Conservation groups to supply forest-based products for processing
- Promote and develop markets for the increased volume of herbal and beauty products

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

The objectives changed in that they expanded to include training of farmer groups in processing and business management. This happened when the project was coordinated with another existing project having related objectives. The objectives complemented each other very well.

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

There were significant achievements of objectives, especially due to a successful strategy of combining resources and activities with an existing programme. The project has been successful in strengthening farmer networks and providing training in processing and basic business skills. A physical structure was also built to serve as a processing and training centre and also as a meeting place business address for farmer groups which was virtually complete by the end of the CEPF project. Further details are below

**Training of farmers in processing Skills**

10 training sessions had been conducted with combined WWF/CEPF funding on various aspects of processing and group management by the end of the project. Training was done by experts from ICIPE and the Kenya Gatsby Trust amongst others. The products involved included neem and aloe extracts and soap. It is hoped that the training improved the quality of the commodities.

**Identification of site and construction of centre**

The process of identifying a site for the construction of the centre was lengthy and involving. Land in or near market centres was scarce and expensive and in many of the centres visited non-existent. Similarly a nearby source of three-phase electrical power was needed which was not possible in many cases. There was also a challenge to find a location which was fairly central in relation to most of the producer groups.

Hence attention shifted from Diani which had been the earlier choice to Kombani, further north along the road to Mombasa but accessible to more farmers. A site was identified and procured by March 2009 and construction began. The structure included a large open room for the processing plant and a small office and store. By the end June 2009, construction was virtually complete and electrical installation was awaited. A chain link fence was also to be erected around the structure.

**Procurement of Equipment, Machinery**

Through the WWF / FF funding, the project succeeded in securing an electricity powered press, and a soap making machine. The press was procured new and awaited

installation by the end of the project. The soap making machine which had been purchased under an older project was redeemed from a landlord for one of the groups who had held it against arrears of rent. The Centre then took it over with the approval of the group.

#### **Markets for end products sought.**

The focus up to date had naturally been with construction of the centre and training and less with securing markets. This was because the basic collectively owned infrastructure was not in place. However because farmers were still producing individually, the combined project supported their participation in local agricultural and tradr shows. The farmer groups attended the Mombasa agricultural on three consecutive years and managed to make good sales from their products.

#### **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 disappointment was due to long delay of disbursement. As a result, conditions in the field changed and this complicated implementation.

Additionally conditions did not allow for operationalization and marketing activity by the end - date of the CEPF project though this is continuing.

#### **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.**

An important positive lesson was the success achieved by coordinating the project with another one having complementary aims. Often this is difficult to do due to institutional competition and the beneficiaries are the losers. Also the CEPF project allowed for change and flexibility in the activities. This reduced wastage and enabled the project to take advantage of opportunities emerging.

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

What remains to be done is to operationalise the centre by bringing together all these elements in a functioning whole. This is the current focus of the project and promises to be even more challenging than the activities to date. The management of the facility itself is a key consideration to make sure that it is used and that producers identify closely with it especially as there are a number of disparate groups who are members. To start with a Committee of leaders from the various groups has been formed to manage the building with emphasis on leadership qualities and commitment as well as proximity of residence, for practical reasons

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

All relevant aspects are presented here.

#### 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
WWF	A	\$ 30 000.00	
FF	A	\$ 20 000.00	
		\$	
		\$	

*\*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 Kwale Herbal Products Centre Project is still under implementation and funds are being sought to continue the work started with CEPF support. The implementing partners including NMK and WWF are committed to ensuring that it does not stall. The development of a physical base is an improvement on other projects which provided funding for rent of premises. This was based on the assumption that within a relatively short time the activity would generate enough income to pay rent. The realistic time frame for this is however very long and difficult to anticipate. We think that the building will become a focus of community activities extending beyond processing and have broad utility.

#### 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](http://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.

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