

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: World Wide Fund for Nature International- Tanzania Programme Office

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Forest Conservation in the Matumbi Hills, Rufiji District*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Rufiji District Council, Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD)

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2007 - December 31, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): March 2010

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Good forest governance can ensure broad base equitable and sustainable benefits from natural resources and hence meeting national development goals as well as reducing poverty without compromising ecological forest integrity. In implementing this project for forest governance in the Matumbi Kichi landscape, some lessons learnt have been counted.

The project was addressing some of the challenges and threats identified in the TRAFFIC report commissioned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (2007) on forest governances and national development on lessons learnt from logging boom in southern Tanzania. Again, the project was putting into implementation a sound forest policy and innovative forest laws for improving forest governance.

As such the WWF Matumbi – Kichi Landscape coastal forests project working with partners in Rufiji district, implemented the project with the support from CEPF. The Matumbi Kichi landscape project has a long experience in the area promoting Participatory Forest Management and forest governance.

Therefore the long term statement of the project was contributing to ensure forest resource utilization in Rufiji District to operate within Tanzanian laws and regulations. The targeted conservation outcomes were focusing on the 12 plant and 5 animal species on the red list in the Matumbi/Kichi landscape (especially Kiwengoma key site) to persist in good numbers. Furthermore, the project was to improve forest conditions and management effectiveness. Short-term impact/purpose was to bring as many stakeholders as possible to understand and implement the laws and regulations relating to logging and forest management in the Matumbi/Kichi hills forest landscape.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Stakeholders understand and implement the laws and regulations relating to logging and forest management in the Matumbi / Kichi Hills areas.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. The incidences of illegal logging decline in the Matumbi / Kichi Hills forests against the 2005 baseline	By the completion of the project, there is quite significant reduction on incidences of illegal logging as compared to the 2005 baselines. It is estimated to be 1/10 th of incidences occurs in 2010 compared to 2005. Four villages within the project have their village forest management plans and by-laws endorsed by village communities. The village forest bylaws are applied regularly. Furthermore, district harvesting plans and village harvesting plans are in use and therefore reducing illegal activities. However, some illegal activities do happen at night, but are dealt through law enforcements by the district authority and Forest & Beekeeping Division.
2. Forest condition improves in the Matumbi / Kichi Hills forests	The Management Effective Tracking Tool (METT) forms were updated, showing an improvement in management from the previous low percentages (20-30%) to as high as 50-70%. Threat reduction assessment shows an increase from the previously reported of 38.1%. to at least 50-70%

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

The Matumbi Kichi forest landscape project in Rufiji counts some positive impacts on forest governances as their major attitudinal changes, especially in harvesting of natural resources i.e forest products. It is observable that, communities are now aware and understand some issues on governing the forest resources. This is exemplified by most targeted villages are now owning the forest resources in a form of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs). There is more than 13,668.5Ha have been put under village ownership status (form the previous free access and no-man's-land). These village reserves have been declared and gazetted as VLFRs and all of them have management plans and bylaws.

The incidences of illegal activities are significantly reduced, at an estimated between 75-80% in the landscape. There are some increased capacities amongst communities as they question, apprehend and confiscate illegal forest products being harvested in adjacent village forests.

There has been significant revenue collection within the Rufiji district council, amounting between USD \$ 10,000 -14,000 per months compared to USD \$ 5,000 – 8,000 in 2005. Furthermore village levy are also collected at the rate of 80-90% compared to nil collection in baseline year 2005. One village (*Nyamwage village*) is a classic example in the area whereby most of the revenue collected were directed and well supervised to the construction of a village office and water systems for the village.

Most of the targeted project stakeholders were involved fully in implementing this project. The Rufiji District authority participated fully by providing legal and decision making on approving management plans, harvesting plans and village bylaws. Furthermore, planning, decision making and approvals of various documents such as village forest reserves, management plans and

bylaws vitally involved a range of the stakeholders. Some partners at wider range, they fully participated in the project. NGOs such as Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) played a great role in forest governance in Rufiji.

The incoming of Campaign of Forests Governance (*Swahili: 'Mama Misitu' = 'Mother Forests'*) by which was run a consortium of 17 major NGOs in Tanzania including WWF complemented significantly this CEPF support and played a vibrant role with its side events such as drama, open meetings and video shows. Signboards, T-shirts, *Khanga* (women tires) and caps with forest governance's messages made a remarkable mind-set amongst communities.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were not any unexpected impacts.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Forest boundaries of existing Central Government, Local Authority and Village Land Forest Reserves clarified and marked	
<i>1.1. All boundaries surveyed</i>	By the end of December 2009, all boundaries of the village land forest reserves were surveyed and a mosaic atlas for all the reserves in Rufiji was produced.
<i>1.2. All boundaries cleared and marked</i>	By the end of December 2009, all forest boundaries have been consolidated with permanent marks such as white painting on big trees along the boundaries and concrete beacons have been placed in strategic points such as encroached areas..
Output 2: Forest management stakeholders are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Forestry Act and Regulations	
<i>2.1. Training sessions held with all forest stakeholders</i>	Both formal and informal training sessions were conducted to targeted local communities in Matumbi landscape. Most training were focusing on forest governance issues, Forest Act and Regulations and Harvesting procedures in Tanzania. Focused training for village leaders and natural resources committee were attended by 15-30 people whereas open village meetings/assembly were attended by 100 -300 people.
<i>2.2. Copies of Forest Act and Regulations printed and distributed to all stakeholders</i>	About 4,000 copies of Swahili booklets on important Acts on Forest, Wildlife, Land, Beekeeping and Environment were printed out and distributed to the targeted communities in Matumbi. Individuals and village government offices received these copies.
<i>2.3. Knowledge Attitude Practice surveys</i>	The KAP report was completed jointly with Forest Governance Campaign team. Many achievements and gaps were identified. The results forms further guidance on forest governance. Some of the recommendation are to continue working with

	communities on forest governance and working with sub-villages and hamlets whereby some community members don't attend meetings at village centers.
Output 3: Forests products harvesting plans for existing Village Forest Reserves developed with local communities and empowered to take part in decision making regarding these plans	
<i>3.1. Developed harvesting plans in participatory process.</i>	The consolidated Rufiji district harvesting plan on general lands are in operational. More than 666 cubic meters of logs, 135 cubic meters of timber 1200 bags of charcoal and 1000 poles have been harvested using the supervised harvesting plans, with a revenue more than USD\$.57,000 between July - Dec 2009. By the end of the Project, two villages (Nyamwage & Tawi) have demonstrated sustainable harvestings in their village Forest Reserves. More than USD \$4,000 were collected by these villages.
<i>3.2. Villages effectively participating in decision making processes regarding forest resources within their area</i>	By the end of the project, most of the villages are participating in decision making process for approval of harvesting license within their areas. It is a requirement that before getting license, harvesters should be approved by and gets an endorsement letter from village(s) having with the forest resources.

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

Through working with stakeholders in Rufiji, the project was able to deliver intended outputs. Most of the forest management stakeholders are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Forestry Act and Regulations. The major stakeholders such as communities and district councils are participated fully and at most all the planned project outputs have been successfully implemented. All targeted forest patches of good importance such as coastal forests and woodlands were demarcated and surveyed. The village forest reserves and central government forest reserve boundaries were consolidated and resurveyed and mapped. Through training and provision of copies of printed booklets of Forest Act and Regulations to stakeholders, awareness and knowledge on their rights and responsibilities in Forest management are considered to be imparted to targeted stakeholders in Matumbi/Kichi Landscape. Moreover, forests products harvesting plans for existing Village Land Forest Reserves which were developed in collaboration with local communities themselves and empowered them to take part in decision making processes - all plans have been developed and put in use.

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

There were no outputs which were not realized.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Environmental resources

The main responsibility of Matumbi Kichi project was in line with Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Eco-region Programme (EACFEP). The EACF Strategic Planning and Result chain process prioritized the Matumbi Kichi landscape and governance was one of the key driver for scrutinizing the forests and environmental aspects. The project provided feedbacks to the District Management team, made up of heads of departments who have front-line responsibility for managing environmental issues such as natural resources, water, livestock, wildlife and

community developments. They bring together significant cross-sectoral resources, experience and professional knowledge.

Social issues

The Matumbi/Kichi had taken social safeguard issues into account as part of its overall implementation. Social issues were assessed in the community through their own involvement, right and responsibilities. In larger picture, the collaborative forest project through community based forest management (CBFM) accounts for responsibilities for appropriate social engagement and hence taking both environmental & social safeguard policy frameworks.

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.

Generally, implementation of the Matumbi Forest Governance Project went well as planned. Forest governance is slowly proving to be cultivated amongst communities. Results on forest governance are observed on regular information, feedbacks and communication reported by communities through their village natural resources committees, village government and individuals. Some communities are apprehending and questioning the legality of forest products on transit or on harvesting. Repeatedly meetings and training on roles, rights and responsibilities on participatory forests management has been yielding a self actualization and sense of ownership on natural resources. For example, two villages (Nyamwage and Tawi) are improving collection of a village levy. One village (Nyamwage) has better utilized the revenues for development of community projects such as market and office construction.

The project observes some communities are changing their alternative livelihood options as recently witnessed, some of them are dropping dependency on natural resources especially tree products to other interventions. Some are joining saving and credit scheme groups and luckily are performing better in terms of accessing other funding opportunities. The groups were well trained in financial management and selection of simple income generating activities. Furthermore, the members from these groups are far better knowledgeable and being elected for various positions within village governments. This is a spill-over effect and leadership skills are being tracked at the community level and District at large.

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

This project was built on the report on Forest governance and lessons learnt from logging boom in the Southern Tanzania which was written by TRAFFIC with WWF funding in 2005, that laid down a clear set of recommendations. Designing of this project was based on discussions made between other organization working in the area (such as Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), FAO, IUCN and TRAFFIC) and resulted in the development of the project, which aims at addressing recommendations made by TRAFFIC. The design did not overlap or conflict with other work by TFCG and IUCN but rather build on and in some cases complemented their work.

Working with existing partners in the area, provided a soft-landing platform for implementation. The partners were in constant loop of communication on all issues related to forest governances. Again, the full support of the Rufiji District authority, specifically the Rufiji District Commissioner provided an informed decision making in many of the governance issues combined with legal backups. All of these contributed to the current success of the project today.

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

A long term presence and commitment of WWF in this forest landscape contributed significantly to the success of the project. A good policy and institutional arrangement of the Rufiji district set a good framework for the project to be executed smoothly. The project work focused on the development of Participatory Community Forest Management arrangements with communities in establishment and managing Village Land Forest Reserves. The community participated in planning, implementation and development of a simple monitoring plan (i.e. Disturbance transects, METT) to track changes in forest quality, management effectiveness and species diversity in the various forests. This approach proved to be successful and was a good entry point to the community, whose interests and morale on forests management were very low and loosing confidence with the government.

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
WWF UK	A	\$ 140,000	This is a commitments from 2005 – 2011 for the EACF Tanzania & Kenya
Mama Misitu	B	\$107,000	A forest governance campaign which run in Rufiji district under a consortium of 18 NGOs lead by TNRF
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

***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.)*

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.

It is anticipated that the funding from WWF UK will continue to support the Matumbi Kichi Landscape project both in Kilwa and Rufiji districts. This will continue to provide support to the initiated project up to year 2011, with an estimated funding of \$ 80,000. The WWF Network Initiatives under the Coastal of East Africa (CEA-NI) continues to fundraise for this forest landscape, in which forest governance issues are taken care. The newly secured GEF/UNDP funding (about \$ 100,000) to the coastal forests of Matumbi, Kilwa and Rondo landscapes will continue supporting this work. Furthermore, after the pilot programme for the 'Mama misitu

'campaign (under the consortium of 18 NGOs with the leadership of Tanzania Natural Resources Forum – TNRF) will scale up funding (to the tune of \$200,000) for intensive forest governance campaigns in both Kilwa and Rufiji Districts.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Communities in the project area are eager to see changes happening in terms of ownership and benefit sharing from forests. The awareness campaign on their rights, responsibilities and opportunities as explicitly outlined in forest policies have triggered their morale to participate in the forest management work. Other villages outside this project coverage are also keen to set aside some forest lands for community based forest management scheme for forest management and community development purpose.
- Overall, illegal forest harvesting and destruction have been perceived by stakeholders to be declining. However, some illegal incidences are reported by the communities who are apprehending and confiscating illegal forest products.
- The project observes some communities are changing their alternative livelihood options as recently witnessed, some of them are dropping dependency on natural resources especially tree products to other interventions. Some are joining saving and Credit scheme groups and luckily are performing better in terms of accessing other funding opportunities. The groups were well trained financial management and selection of simple income generating activities. Furthermore, the members from these groups are far better knowledgeable and being elected for various positions within village governments. This is a spill-over effect and leadership skills being tracked at community level.
- Generally, implementation of the Matumbi Forest Governance Project went very well as planned. Forest governance is slowly proving to be cultivated amongst communities and Rufiji District Council. Results on forest governance is observed on regular information and feedbacks reported by communities through their village natural resources committees, village government and individuals to the District Council. Repeatedly meetings and training on roles, rights and responsibilities on participatory forests management is yielding a self actualization and sense of ownerships on natural resources.

VIII. 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.

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