

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Amani Nature Reserve

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Capacity Building to Improve the Management of the Amani Nature Reserve*

Implementation Partners for This Project: Amani Nature Reserve and Tropical Biology Association

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): Jan 1, 2007-Dec 31, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): Final Report April 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Amani Nature Reserve is a semi autonomous body working with conservation and management of biodiversity core area of East Usambara Mountains in the Eastern Arc Mountain. Surrounding this core zone is local community with peasant Agriculture. In that aspect the Amani Nature Reserve also works with improving the lively hood of the surrounding local communities.

Other key objectives of Amani Nature Reserve are to support Research, training and development of Ecotourism in the Eastern Arc Mountains. Amani Nature Reserve was established 1997 with objective of conserving representative sample of the biodiversity of East Usambara in the Eastern Arc Mountains. To achieve this National and global objective ANR works with other partners including Tropical Biology Association, CEPF, Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund, UNDP, and other private sectors

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The Project "Capacity Building to Improve the Management of the Amani Nature Reserve" was developed to support the initial efforts already made by Amani Nature Reserve in relation to updating and reviewing Amani Nature Reserve General Management Plan (ANRGMP) and improving the communication and networking of the Amani Nature Reserve with the rest of the world including research centers, conservation centers, training centers and to link the area with tourist destination. Installation of the Internet service has tremendously improved the capacity of the area both horizontally and vertically.

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

During the planning implementation and up to date there is no change of the objectives. The project aimed to core and critical issues that the flexibility to change is very little. Review of the (ANRGMP) was so crucial (no room to change) in addition, the internet service was one of the core bottlenecks of the development of ANR

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

Amani Nature Reserve an autonomous body sets plans and implement according to plan. There are no political or social interference in set plans of ANR. ANR works according to approved plans and budgets; If there is a need to make major change on set plans must be approved by

the ANR Advisory board. In addition ANR has committed staff for implementing what they plan. Plans are prepared in participatory manner also implementation.

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.

With all success we had the major disappointment we got is on establishment of website. The work seems to be expensive than the budget allocated. Also most of companies contacted to work on establishing the website they are not competent and have no legal authorities. They come, try, fail and disappear. The problem is still persisting to date due to fund shortage. During evaluation of the outgoing ANR GMP we also got some problem as the process required more money than planned. To solve the problem we leased with Ministry of Natural Resources and tourism whom provided the competent team of evaluators with less costs. The whole process of reviewing and updating the ANR General Management plan was so expensive, however, we received very great support also from Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund

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.
 - (a) When you prepare Project proposal you have to know that even if you will be successful, the project will not start on time you plan the project to start.
 - (b) Try to prepare the project to have kind of flexibility (room to play) other wise if the project is so rigid with budget, time and other resources you might end up being frustrated instead of achieving the target.
 - (c) Inform the partners (including funding source) on problems you are facing during implementation.
 - (d) Try to stick on the plan and budget and even if you have other major problem avoid relocation of Fund.
6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

There are three major areas (Activities) required to be done as follow up of this project.

- (a) Implementation of the new ANR General Management Plan. Now we have beautiful, well prepared ANR General Management Plan. This plan requires adequate resources to put it in action. Amani Nature Reserve working with biodiversity conservation and improvement of lively hood of surrounding communities is not a business oriented organization. It is service provider for the benefit of today and future generation. It works mainly for National and global interests. The surrounding communities requires to be supported to enable them self sustaining while conserving the nature. More efforts required to build the capacity of the surrounding communities in order to improve their living standards and decrease dependency of the natural resources from the core area of biodiversity conservation zone of Amani Nature Reserve.
- (b) The Amani Nature Reserve is now linked with the rest of the world. It is easy to know what happens all over the world though the internet communication. However, ANR is still not using effectively the communication network available as it has no website and web page. ANR in collaboration with other partners **must** strive to ensure that it opens its website with active home page. There are a lot of scientific activities and research going on in the East Usambara and particularly in Amani Nature Reserve. However all of this information is not properly shared with others due to lack of website and home page.

(c) Exposure of the staff and key implementers of the ANR Programs. Most of key implementers of ANR activities lack exposure and comparison of what other organization working with nature reserves do and the secret of their success. As stipulated in the revised ANR General Management plan the ANR staff should be exposed to the rest of the world to learn and increase their capacity in integrated management and conservation of the biodiversity hotspots like ANR in East Usambara Mountains.

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

I have very less to CEPF except handful of thanks. The project has been of great importance to us. The Fund for Updating the ANR General Management plan acted as seed money we used to attract other donors to support the whole exercise of Evaluation, and review of the Plan.

Fund used for installation of internet equipment and communication was largely from CEPF and without that we could not have internet communication to date.

The ANR general Management Plan on hand today is the basis for implementation of a number of programs by ANR. We are looking for the partners including CEPF to continue supporting the plan.

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	Date Received	Notes	
Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund	Cash funding	\$ 10,500 USD	March 2007	To support updating of ANR General Management plan	B
ANR Local sources	Transport Human Resource Cash	\$12,000	Continuous	Evaluation, data collection, write up of the plan	A
Forestry and Beekeeping Division	Human resource	\$4,000	Evaluation of outgoing GMP	Supported evaluation of outgoing ANRGMP	C

****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

We have ANGGMP on hand we have to implement it; We request CEPF to continue providing support to enable us to implement our revised ANRGMP

Thanks.

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.

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