

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: East Africa Natural History Society

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Instituting a Biodiversity Monitoring System of Globally Threatened Species in Dakatcha Woodland*

Implementation Partners for This Project: No Partners

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): March 27, 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The funds provided by CI-CEPF were the first of their kind and have enabled Nature Kenya to engage in Dakatcha and provide a basis for community participation in conservation work. There was virtually no tangible conservation done until this support came along. There is a site support group now in place, composed of local people, and a clear monitoring framework that is being used to monitor biodiversity.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

- Generate baseline information on habitat and birds species in Dakatcha woodlands
- Find out how birds and species are changing over time
- Identify conservation gaps and possible interventions
- Provide timely warning of any deterioration in conservation status, so that action can be taken
- Mobilize and build the capacity of a Site Support Group (SSG) to take up monitoring in Dakatcha
- Train and engage local authorities in site monitoring and assessment

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

No.

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

Objective	Remarks
Generate baseline information on	Baseline surveys were conducted in 2006 and covered birds, vegetation structure and human induced disturbances. These were

habitat and birds species in Dakatcha woodlands	key to setting benchmarks for monitoring work in future. The species recorded are currently being used to develop a checklist of birds of Dakatcha. The checklist will be the first of its kind in Kenya in that it will both have common names of the birds as well as their Giriama local names. The checklist of birds will be a useful tool for continued monitoring and as marketing tool for avitourism at the site.
Find out how birds and species are changing over time	After conducting baselines, more data collection followed. Basic analyses showed that there were no significant changes in species composition over the time data was collected.
Provide timely warning of any deterioration in conservation status, so that action can be taken	The baselines that were done and the data that continued to be collected gave the basis for engaging the local stakeholders on the need to give some attention to issues concerning conservation of Dakatcha woodlands. The findings were very useful in presenting a case for conservation of Dakatcha Woodland to the Local Government and also shared during a Kenya Forest Working Group and Important Bird Area-National Liaison Committee (IBA-NLC) meetings to give a warning to the stakeholders about the worrying trends at the site. Some of the responses has been a visit by the County Council Clerk and threats by the Local administration to forcibly evict the charcoal producers who continue to exploit the woodland unsustainably.
Identify conservation gaps and possible interventions	<p>A number of conservation challenges have been identified with the site through the various avenues. The regular field visits that were undertaken in the area and a workshop that was held in October 2007 gave insights into the conservation challenges facing Dakatcha woodland. Some of the key ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited available livelihood alternatives leading to overuse of the biological resources, • little or no control of unsustainable resource extraction practices as this area does not fall under any form of protection, hence, little attention from the relevant state organs, • The area is a Trust Land and these are traditionally poorly managed by the Local Government. This has led to exploitation of the resources unsustainably. • There is little awareness on biodiversity conservation issues. This means that the residents can only loosely connect conservation or environmental degradation with their well being or sustainable living <p>The above-mentioned conservation challenges or gaps have bred a number of activities that continue to aggravate the problem of environmental degradation in Dakatcha woodland. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Unsustainable charcoal production, ii. Uncontrolled logging, iii. Unplanned settlement, iv. Bush meat hunting, v. Agricultural expansion through shifting cultivation, vi. Bush fires. <p>A number of interventions have been proposed as possible options that could be initiated or expanded to counter the above-mentioned threats. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of income generating activities that are eco-friendly e.g. Bee keeping, Butterfly farming, Ecotourism promotion, Farm forestry and tree growing, Mushroom farming, Aloe farming, Sericulture, Pineapple farming.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the area resources and development of a management plan clearly defining areas that are suitable for the various land uses • Closer involvement of state institutions that are mandated to manage the local resources for the local and national good • Environmental education and awareness creation campaign targeting the locals and the government institutions at both local and national levels
Mobilize and build the capacity of a Site Support Group (SSG) to take up monitoring in Dakatcha	<p>Four community-based organizations (CBOs), namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Baricho Youth Group, 2) Mulunguni Umoja Youth Group, 3) Muungano Clarke's Weaver Conservation Group, and; 4) Marafa Hell's Kitchen Tourist and Operators Association <p>have come together and formed an umbrella body "Dakatcha Woodland Conservation Group" that will among other activities engage in advocating for sound management of Dakatcha woodlands.</p> <p>A workshop to inform the members on biodiversity and conservation issues was organized where 18 people participated. From the workshop, the groups were able to contribute 8 members who now form a monitoring sub-committee. A set of equipment including 4 binoculars was acquired and members of the group trained on how to use them to particularly identify birds. Members of the committee were trained on to conduct detailed data collection on birds and vegetation and were able to collect data in January/February 2009 which is beyond the project life.</p>
Train and engage local authorities in site monitoring and assessment	<p>The workshop mentioned above included participation of local level Kenya Forest Service-KFS (government agency responsible for forest management). The setting of monitoring framework had strong participation from the KFS, National Museums of Kenya-Natural Sciences unit and Arocha Kenya who have conservation activities on the ground.</p> <p>Monitoring is being done in the entire site based on a set of transects and the team continue to note instances that are linked to conservation at the site as they go in their normal work.</p>

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

No significant disappointments or failures were experienced during project implementation

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.

- Local communities are a force that must not be ignored when it comes to implementation of conservation projects in their area

- With the right capacity, local communities are able to conduct monitoring that is cost effective yet highly informative
- So that communities can be able to appreciate and actively participate on conservation activities, it is extremely important to link conservation action with livelihood improvement.

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

The activities that were initiated during this project have helped Nature Kenya to expand its network of sites where it is taking action to conserve biodiversity. Identifying the challenges that are facing biodiversity in Dakatcha, which was mainly as a result of this project, Nature Kenya was able to approach donors for support. Some of these have given funds to initiate livelihood improvement projects and also provide basic support for continued biodiversity monitoring.

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

No additional information.

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
Finnish Embassy	C	\$ 83349	
BirdLife International	C	\$ 15887	
Community Environment Facility	C	\$ 213554	
		\$	

****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 CEPF support for activities in Dakatcha gave very useful insights that enabled Nature Kenya to be better aware of some of the challenges that the biodiversity is faced with in the coastal region. Dakatcha woodlands provides a good example of the magnitude of environmental degradation that is taking place in Key Biodiversity Areas in the coastal forests that are outside the protected area network. Despite the challenges and the huge amount of resources that need to be availed to address the challenges, there should be no let-up since these sites continue to host unique biodiversity which has importance at a global scale.

Therefore, the need for sustained investments in the unprotected KBAs to safeguard biodiversity therein need to be recognized by all. Concerted action between the government, donors, the NGOs, the local communities and other stakeholders is required if meaningful results are to be achieved.

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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