

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** African Rainforest Conservancy

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Rubeho Environmental Action Plan (REAP) Project – Phase I

**Implementation Partners for this Project:** Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** December 1, 2006 - September 30, 2008

**Date of Report (month/year):** November 2008

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Rubeho Environmental Action Plan project is a project of the African Rainforest Conservancy implemented by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. The project involved the development of a strategic plan for the Mafwomero Forest landscape within the Rubeho Mountains; capacity building on participatory forest management; environmental education; community development and resource mobilization.

The Rubeho Mountain Forests including Mafwomero have received little conservation investment relative to other areas of the Eastern Arc Mountains. However surveys carried out by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, the Trento Museum of Natural History and the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen have highlighted the biological importance of the area and have recorded a number of species new to science including the Rubeho forest partridge and the frog, the Rubeho squeaker. Given the presence of these two Rubeho-endemic species in Mafwomero Forest, TFCG selected Mafwomero and the contiguous Chugu Forest for the Rubeho Environmental Action Planning project. The forest is under pressure from illegal logging, encroachment from agricultural land, cardamom cultivation and fire. Given the remoteness of the area and limited resources, there has been little active management of the forest by Mpwapwa District Council. Supporting a strategic planning process for the Mafwomero landscape and building the capacity of both the District and surrounding communities were identified as priorities in terms of securing the long term conservation of the area.

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

***Project Purpose:** Stakeholders will have the desire and capability to manage their local forests, including maintaining firebreaks, preventing local farmers from starting bushfires, and planting trees in buffer zones. Stakeholders will be willing and able to share what they have learned with others. A foundation will be laid for further fundraising activity, both in the U.S. and abroad.*

### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	

1. Firebreaks maintained, bushfires decreased, trees planted, fuel efficient stoves distributed.	The project has succeeded in bringing stakeholders together to agree on the priority actions that are needed to ensure the conservation of Mafwomero forest. The project has supported the initial implementation of priority actions and has raised funds to support the implementation of key elements of the landscape plan in 2009 and 2010.
2. Fruitful discussions at village assemblies and implementation of strategies.	Through awareness raising and training, communities are engaging actively in establishing participatory forest management for the forests within the Mafwomero landscape.
3. Money raised for core costs.	Funds have been raised to support priority activities in 2009 and 2010. Additional fund raising is now being carried out.

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

Over 18 months the project succeeded in bringing stakeholders together to develop a landscape plan aimed at securing the conservation of Mafwomero forest and improving the livelihoods of the communities living around the forest. The plan is based on detailed socio-economic, resource use and biodiversity surveys and reflects the priorities of the communities, District and Forestry and Beekeeping Division. Having developed the strategy, the project has begun to implement key actions. This includes the establishment and training of the village natural resources committees in five villages around Mafwomero; tree planting; training on fuel-efficient stoves; training in environmental education for teachers in the local primary schools; awareness raising events for adults; training for District and NGO staff; linking the Rubeho villages with the national network of communities involved in participatory forest management; and identifying priority sites for participatory forest management. Through resource mobilization, the project has succeeded in raising additional funds to continue to support the implementation of the Mafwomero landscape plan.

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

In collating data necessary for preparing the participatory natural resource management strategy, it has been highlighted that two important forest areas in the Rubehos currently have no legal protection. These forests are at Chugu, home to the Rubeho-endemic Rubeho partridge and Ilole, an area of forest south of Ukwiva which has an important population of Abbott's duiker. This has prompted a dialogue between the District, communities and Forestry and Beekeeping Division as to the appropriate status of the forest. This dialogue has yet to be concluded.

**IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS**

**Project Outputs:**

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: Through greater knowledge and improved communication, stakeholders in the Rubeho Mountains are empowered to engage</b>	Through training, networking and the distribution of information resources, the communities around Mafwomero Forest have a greater understanding of the values of Mafwomero Forest and the threats that it faces. Communities and local government are also now more aware of how participatory forest management can improve the conservation of Mafwomero forests and are connected to a national network of communities involved in participatory forest management.

<p><b>more effectively in sustainable forest management.</b></p>	
<p><i>1.1. Awareness raising materials distributed to primary schools and government offices.</i></p>	<p>In order to raise awareness about the values of, threats to and conservation of Mafwomero, the project has distributed books, posters and leaflets to stakeholders around the forests.</p> <p>This has included 60 copies of the Ministry of Education's Guide to Environmental Education; 200 copies of a plain language guide to the Environment, Land, Forest, Beekeeping and Wildlife Policies and Laws of mainland Tanzania in Swahili that were given to Village and Ward governments and natural resource committees (plus 10 copies in English given to schools); 50 Swahili copies of the National Forest Policy that were given to Village, Ward and Division-level officials and 400 copies of posters about the biodiversity of the Rubeho Mountains. Copies of TFCG's newsletters the Arc Journal and Komba have also been distributed regularly to the Rubeho communities. In all cases, the distribution of the materials has been conducted through meetings in order to explain the relevance of the materials distributed as well as to provide opportunities for feedback.</p> <p>With support from UNDP, TFCG provided training to teachers about how to teach environmental issues in the nursery, primary and secondary schools within the Mafwomero landscape. With support from CEPF, a follow-up training session was held in Kibakwe Division with 16 teachers working in the schools around Mafwomero forest. The aim of the training session was to revisit the Environmental Education guidelines for schools and to share experiences about what was working and where there were challenges. The training session highlighted that many of the schools are now integrating environmental education into their teaching programme.</p>
<p><i>1.2. Information on forest laws and policies distributed to all villages and wards surrounding Mafwomero Forest.</i></p>	<p>As outlined above the project has distributed Swahili versions of the National Forest Policy as well as 200 copies of a plain language guide to the Environment, Land, Forest, Beekeeping and Wildlife Policies and Laws of mainland Tanzania in Swahili.</p>
<p><i>1.3. Improved networking between communities surrounding Mafwomero forest on forest management issues.</i></p>	<p>In order to develop the capacity of local civil society organisations the project has worked closely with the EMPAFORM programme, a partnership initiative between TFCG and CARE, to support a forest conservation network around Mafwomero Forest. The network is called MJAMA (the Network of Communities around Mafwomero) and includes representatives from each of the six villages around the forest. The Network aims to promote the sustainable management of the forests and woodlands in the Mafwomero landscape as well as improving community livelihoods. Through the REAP project, TFCG staff trained 60 people in how to operate such a network and assisted members to elect their leaders and agree a constitution. The Network then played an active role in the development of the Mafwomero landscape plan. In order to make the network more sustainable, it is closely linked with the National Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) which will continue to provide (limited) support to MJAMA.</p> <p>The project supported 10 villagers to participate in the 2007 Annual Meeting of MJUMITA, the National Forest Conservation Network and five people to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of MJUMITA. Participation in these meetings has exposed the villagers to the broader debates surrounding participatory forest management in Tanzania. The workshops also served to raise their awareness on the scope of participatory forest</p>

	management in the country and to put the ideas being promoted by the project in the national context.
<b>Output 2: Through a participatory planning process, a strategy has been developed to guide sustainable natural resource management in the Mafwomero Forest landscape and resources have been mobilized for the implementation of the plan.</b>	Stakeholders around Mafwomero Forest have developed a participatory natural resources management strategy for the Mafwomero landscape and resources have been mobilized to begin implementing the plan.
<i>2.1. A wide range of stakeholders have engaged in the development of a natural resource management plan for Kibakwe Division.</i>	<p>Five villages around Mafwomero Forest (Mbuga, Kizi, Galigali, Lufu and Lufusi) have developed participatory natural resource management plans. The planning process involved an initial socio-economic assessment by a consultant to get a picture of the key issues affecting the villages. The results of this assessment together with the results of the recent CEPF-financed biodiversity and disturbance surveys in Mafwomero were presented to the communities so that people had a common understanding of the status quo. From there, the villagers were encouraged to develop a vision of the future in relation to natural resource use. And from these visions to identify a way of achieving this vision. The visions were similar in each of the villages in terms of including more sustainable and participatory forest management combined with community development through improved agriculture and alternative income generating activities.</p> <p>Following on from the development of the village environmental strategies developed, the project organised a workshop for 54 participants at which an outline landscape strategy was developed. The plan identifies a series of actions needed to secure the sustainable management of the Mafwomero Forest landscape including participatory forest management, environmental education, tree planting and more sustainable livelihood options. The strategy has been circulated to stakeholders in the Mafwomero landscape and is available at <a href="http://www.tfcg.org">www.tfcg.org</a></p> <p>The project also investigated the possibilities of clearing and planting the boundaries of Mafwomero Forest as, in all of the stakeholder planning processes, the issue of the boundary has arisen. Few signs of the original boundary, as established in colonial times, remain. As such there is a need to resurvey, map and demarcate the entire boundary. This activity was beyond the scope of the planning phase however through the planning phase we have collected some key maps and remote sensing images (including the aerial photographs produced with support from CEPF through the WCS Flight Programme) and have identified that this is a priority activity requiring support in the next phase of the project. As a first step, the project has developed 14 sign boards that have been established close to the forest edge informing people that the forest is protected. The project has also opened discussions on the future of the Chugu Forest. This is an area of forest North of Mafwomero which currently has no legal protection. It is home to the Rubeho-endemic, Rubeho partridge and the frog, <i>Arthroleptis nikeae</i>. Whilst the District are keen to extend the Mafwomero Forest Reserve to include Chugu, villager's claim the forest as their own. Agreeing an appropriate way of protecting this forest will be one of the priorities for the next phase of the project.</p>
<i>2.2. Villages and wards surrounding Mafwomero have</i>	The project has also been developing the capacity of the communities around Mafwomero to manage their forests through the establishment of village natural resource committees. Village assembly meetings were held

<p><i>formed Environmental Committees.</i></p>	<p>in each of the five villages to elect Village Natural Resource Committee members. These committees were then provided with an introductory course in the need for land use planning, community based forest management and joint forest management, the importance of tree planting, roles and responsibilities of village natural resource committees particularly in relation to patrolling. This was followed by a more detailed course that was provided to 166 people including 105 men and 61 women who are members of the Village Natural Resources Committees in the six villages participating in the project. As a result of the training, the committees now have a firm understanding of the National Forest Policy in relation to participatory forest management and the benefits that it can bring to communities. Follow up training was provided to the VNRCs and members of the Village Council for each of the six villages. As a result of these training sessions, participants are aware of the steps required in establishing village land forest reserves including the process of preparing management plans and by-laws. These training sessions will provide a strong foundation for the project during the next phase when it is intended that the project will support the establishment of participatory forest management for Mafwomero Forest Reserve and the surrounding village forests.</p> <p>The project also organised a study tour visit for ten people including six community members and four TFCG staff to visit Mufindi. During the five days that the participants spent in Mufindi, they were able to see participatory forest management and reforestation in action in the Lulanda and Lugoda-Lutali forests. Participants were also able to learn about the benefits of tree planting and microfinance. Overall the participants from Rubeho were very impressed with how actively the villagers in Mufindi are implementing participatory forest management and how the income generating activities supported by TFCG have improved people's livelihoods. This has made the participants strong local advocates for pushing forward PFM in the landscape.</p>
<p><i>2.3. Resources have been mobilized to enable initial implementation of the plan.</i></p>	<p>In order to implement the landscape plan, ARC have succeeded in raising funds to sustain the project during 2009 and 2010 through the Newman's Own Foundation who will provide US\$ 45,000 per year for the project. TFCG are continuing to fund raise for additional funds. ARC arranged for a team to visit Mafwomero to develop a fund raising video, this included a representative from Goldman Sach's who was interested in exploring potential corporate sponsorship for the area.</p>
<p><b>Output 3: Through training and support for sustainable natural resource management practices, there is reduced pressure on Rubeho forests.</b></p>	<p>The project has succeeded in reducing demand for fuel wood from the forest by promoting the adoption of fuel efficient stoves and by encouraging widespread tree planting.</p>
<p><i>3.1. Four district and project staff have been trained in participatory forest management.</i></p>	<p>The project has been working on ways to ensure sustainability including capacity building for District staff. The project Officer (Devis Mlowe) who was temporarily seconded from Mpwapwa District Council and a staff member from Mpwapwa District Natural Resources Office (Hamisi Mwangi), participated in a training programme on participatory forest management at MS TCDC. The course included training on PFM principles and processes, situation analysis, conflict management and negotiation, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy. Both staff have</p>

	<p>been applying their skills during the development of the landscape plan and in initiating participatory forest management. The project will continue to work with both staff during the next phase of the project.</p>
<p><b>3.2.</b> <i>There is an increase in the availability of alternative supplies of building materials, fire wood.</i></p>	<p>The project has promoted tree planting in all of the project villages. 13 groups have formed who will keep tree nurseries and promote tree planting. Each group has had training in site selection, seed pretreatment, identifying appropriate tree species, seed sowing, preparing soil mixture, pot filling, transplanting and tending seedlings in nurseries. Seeds that have been selected include both indigenous and exotic species.</p> <p>Mbuga village has been the most active in terms of tree planting and has planted 12000 trees including some exotic species which are good for fuel wood and / or building materials such as Pinus patula, Grevillea robusta, Tectona grandis and Terminalia sp.. The indigenous tree Khaya anthotheca is also popular. Approximately 16,000 additional trees have been planted in the other four villages.</p>
<p><b>3.3.</b> <i>Increased number of households using fuel efficient stoves.</i></p>	<p>Fuel efficient stoves can significantly reduce household wood fuel consumption and can help in reducing respiratory complaints and are safer, particularly in avoiding accidents involving small children. Through the REAP project, the Project Officer trained 151 people (79 women 72 men) from six villages in the construction, maintenance and use of fuel efficient stoves. The project officer also encouraged 10 women's groups and 5 youth groups to form. These groups will help to produce and promote fuel efficient stoves in the five villages.</p> <p>With CEPF's support 140 households are now using improved stoves thereby reducing their fuel wood consumption by between 40 - 60 %.</p>
<p><b>3.4.</b> <i>Acres of forest preserved.</i></p>	<p>Three areas have been identified that have potential for community based forest management at Lufu, Mbuga and Lufusi. With support from the project, the communities have begun to establish village forest reserves in these areas.</p>

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

None

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

N/ A

## 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.***

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

It is important that issues of sustainability are carefully integrated in project planning. Through its strong emphasis on working closely with Mpwapwa District, the project has succeeded in building the capacity and interest of the District to engage in improved forest management in the Rubeho Mountains. It is anticipated that this will help significantly when it comes to implementing the results of the landscape planning. The project has also been strengthened by including fund raising issues from the outset. This has meant that we will be able to sustain activities once the CEPF support comes to an end.

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

By regularly sharing the findings of the project with the key stakeholders, there is now strong buy-in from the District and Villages into the REAP project. This was demonstrated by a warm letter of support for the project from the Mpwapwa District Executive Director at which he commended the project for its work around Mafwomero and requested TFCG to continue to work in the area. Furthermore, the close involvement of Mpwapwa District Natural Resources Office in all aspects of the project has been very helpful in pushing through the rapid progress made by the project over the last six months. In particular, the District has helped in providing transport for the Project Officer as well as facilitating linkages with Ward and Village governments.

The remoteness of the villages means that some of the communities have no experience of the kind of planning that we were undertaking. Similarly they had little experience of 'alternative scenarios'. As such, it was important to have a skilled facilitator to help in the development of the plans. It has also highlighted the importance of TFCG's awareness raising activities in providing information on forest conservation and the environment as there are no other sources of such information in this area.

One of the challenges in promoting environmental education in rural Tanzania is the need for teacher support documents in Swahili. With CEPF support, this is being addressed through the TFCG TALK project which will produce a teacher's environmental education guide for the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Village leadership was weak in some of the villages where the REAP project was working. The training that the project provided on natural resource issues was also important for general village level governance. In particular the training has and will help in clarifying leadership roles for the Village Government and its committees.

Herbalists have been a particularly supportive group within some of the villages.

**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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Newman's Own Foundation	C	\$ 45,000	July 2008	

***\*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.**

TFCG plans to continue supporting the implementation of the Mafwomero participatory natural resource management strategy. So far we have received a commitment from the Newman's Own Foundation to support key activities during 2009 and 2010.

## VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As this project comes to an end, TFCG would like to extend its thanks to CEPF for enabling us to start the process of securing the future of the Mafwomero forest. CEPF's investment in the REAP project has meant that we now have a strong foundation in terms of local capacity, planning and stakeholder buy-in to continue to the next phase of the project. Asante sana.

## 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](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.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name:	Charles Meshack
Organization name:	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
Mailing address:	PO Box 23410, Dar es Salaam
Tel:	+255 22 2669007
Fax:	+255 22 2669007
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:cmeshack@tfcg.or.tz">cmeshack@tfcg.or.tz</a>
<a href="http://www.tfcg.org">www.tfcg.org</a>	