

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: The Research Foundation of the State University of New York

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *A Bilingual Field Guide to the Amphibians of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya*

Implementation Partners for This Project: Field guide co-authors were from the following institutions: The State University of New York, Paul Smith's College, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University and the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali. The field guide translator was affiliated with the University of Dar es Salaam.

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

Date of Report (month/year): March 2010

II. OPENING REMARKS

Over the past three years we have worked to summarize the existing knowledge of the amphibians of the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya in the form of a field guide. Simultaneously, new amphibian species continued to be discovered and major taxonomic revisions resulted in entire genera being re-named and moved into other families. With the help of many colleagues we have published a 320 page book that includes species accounts for 122 amphibian species and 123 color photographs. The entire guide is written in both English and Kiswahili, making it accessible to a broad audience.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The primary objective of our project was to expand the coverage of our web-based field guide of the amphibians of the East Usambara Mountains to cover a larger geographic area and to make this information readily accessible to a broad audience by including text in both English and Kiswahili.

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

The objectives of our project did not change during implementation; however the scope of the project expanded as several new amphibian species were discovered and major taxonomic revisions were made during the process of writing the guide.

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

The field guide has been completed and published. It is currently being distributed in East Africa by Camerapix International. The 320 page book includes species accounts for 122 amphibian species. Each account includes common names, a physical description, similar species, habitat, natural history, call, distribution, type locality, elevation range and conservation status. We also included range maps for each species and 123 color photos. Introductory sections of the book describe the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests, amphibian habitat types, the history of amphibian studies in the region, the conservation status of amphibians, and methods for identifying amphibians in the field. The entire guide was translated into Swahili.

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.

Fortunately, we were able to overcome the challenges we faced during the implementation of the project. It was difficult to find a publisher who was willing to publish such a geographically specific field guide within our budget. It was also a challenge to find a publisher willing to edit and print text in both English and Kiswahili. The greatest challenge was ensuring that the most accurate and up to date information was used in the guide. This would not have been possible without the generosity and collegiality of the many herpetologists working in the region.

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.

When finding a publisher it is important to know where they plan to distribute the book to ensure that it will be readily available to the appropriate target audience. It was challenging but worthwhile to find a publisher based in Kenya that distributes books primarily within East Africa.

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

We are currently working on a list of people and institutions that will receive the limited number of free copies of the guide.

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

New amphibian species continue to be discovered in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests, many of which have yet to be formally described or given scientific names. We hope to maintain a website that can function as a dynamic supplement to the published guide, summarizing new data as they become available.

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.

The Research Foundation of the State University of New York reduced the amount of overhead taken from the grant to allow us to stay within our budget.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

***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

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Elizabeth Harper

Organization name: The Research Foundation of the State University of New York

Mailing address: 55 County Route 18, Lake Clear NY, 12945, U.S.A.

Tel: 518-354-8090

Fax:

E-mail: eharper@esf.edu