

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali (Trento Museum of Natural Sciences)

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Assessing the potential for restoring connectivity and evaluating options for improved management of the Udzungwa Scarp, Iyondo, Matundu and Nyanganje Forest Reserves in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): August 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Protected area authorities, central and local government authorities, conservation organizations and other relevant stakeholders have accepted the strategies proposed through an action plan for improved conservation of the study area.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level: All relevant stakeholders have reviewed the proposal for improving conservation management of the area and agreed on intervention strategies.	The project organized a final stakeholders' meeting that was attended by over 60 people in March 2007 in Morogoro. Results of this study were presented. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations for improving conservation management of target forests.

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

The project was successful in contributing significantly to the conservation of southern Forest Reserves in the Udzungwa Mountains as it: (1) reviewed the biodiversity and economic importance of the forests, (2) assessed the current status in terms of disturbance and (3) designed conservation management strategies including connectivity restoration and (4) provided

a forum for relevant stakeholders at all levels (community to Government to NGOs) to discuss management options and agree on recommendations.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The key recommendation that Uzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve (USFR) has been neglected for decades in terms of protection and not included in the forthcoming Nature Reserve (that will incorporate some of the other forests targeted by this study) has been seriously received by the representatives of Forestry and Beekeeping Division. Admission of this oversight raises the hope that increased attention will be given to the area in the near future.

The narrative study report (www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/udzungwa_mtsn_report_may2007.pdf) that was widely distributed especially through e-mail and web-sites since April 2007 received large attention by conservationists, conservation agencies and donor representatives, which could help to ensure donor commitment for implementation of the recommended strategies.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: The habitat status, ecosystem integrity (especially endangered and endemic species) and human impacts are assessed in and near the areas of interest. Potential corridors are identified and mapped	The output was completed. The study made a summary of primary and secondary information on biodiversity importance of the area (as mainly approximated by presence of forest-dependent mammals, extension and quality of forest habitat, gross evaluation of overall forest status). Surveys of human disturbance and animal movements were conducted both in the Forest Reserves and National Park to quantify disturbance levels. A major corridor linking USFR to Iyondo Forest Reserves and the National Park was surveyed and designed.
1.1 Aerial and field surveys have been completed and the results have been documented.	Through WCS' Flight Program, we conducted 2 preliminary aerial surveys and detailed aerial digital photometry of key areas; over 120 days of fieldwork were completed by a team of 2 researchers and assistants. Data collected were from preliminary surveys, 132 (=66 km walked) disturbance transects, 50 km of wildlife sign transects, village interviews. Extensive review of available information was made prior to fieldwork. Results are documented in details in the narrative report.
1.2 25 copies of reports have been distributed to all relevant stakeholders by 12 months off project start.	The report has been sent by e-mail to approximately 100 people and 10 copies of the full report were hand-given to representatives of most relevant GoT and conservation agencies. Over 60 participants to the workshop were given a copy of the report summary with findings and recommendations. Both CEPF and eastern arc websites has uploaded the report: www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/cepf_workshop_morogoro.pdf

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

The project was successful in collecting, analyzing and presenting a multi-disciplinary set of data that together provided a comprehensive, quantitative overview of the status of target forests, disturbance levels and connectivity. In addition, the project was complemented by the socio-economic study conducted by WWF-Tanzania on the communities living around target forests. Together, these studies permitted a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the target

area. This, in turn, allowed for a comparison with the northern Udzungwa (protected as National Park), especially in terms of human immigration patterns and human pressures on the forests.

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

All outputs were realized.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

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.

The involvement of many partners, including the collaboration with WWF, as well as the final workshop, were crucial to the success of the project and to achieving a consensus on action to be taken. CEPF's direct support through facilitation of partnerships and the participation of John Watkin at the final meeting was also of crucial importance.

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

The project design gained from the extensive experience of project leaders in the area and the established network of collaborating agencies. Un-avoidable difficulties delayed the aerial photography significantly. Consequently, the aerial photography data could not be used to design ground truthing studies. Instead, preliminary overflights and landsat imagery were used to design the protocol for ground truthing.

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

The field surveys were greatly facilitated by a thorough review of background information and consultation with people living and working in the area. The field team was composed of experienced personnel, including a Tanzanian university graduate and well-trained and competent field assistants, with technical support and guidance from Drs. Rovero and Struhsaker. As a result, a significant body of new information was collected from all of the target sites.

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
Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali (through Trento Province's "watu na msitu" project)	Co-financing	20.000 \$	Estimated share for vehicle and various logistic set-up
Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali (through Trento Province's "post-doctoral grants" to F. Rovero)	Co-financing	15.000 \$	Estimated share of Dr. Rovero's salary
WCS' Flight Program	Co-financing	8.000 \$	Costs of aerial surveys and data analysis
Conservation International's Corridor Learning Initiative	Co-financing	10.000 \$	Complementary project by Trevor Jones, F. Rovero and T. Struhsaker to assess connectivity outside the Udzungwas

***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.

The primary goals of this project were achieved, namely an assessment of key forests and a feasibility study to determine how best to improve protection of these forests. Project leaders and partner organizations, including CEPF, are pursuing ways to implement the recommendations of this study. In particular, ways are being explored as to how best to improve the protection and conservation status of the Udzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve and how to improve land-use patterns in neighboring communities in order to reduce pressure on this important reserve.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project was important in providing recommendations for the conservation of what appears to be the most important and yet under-protected area in the Eastern Arc Mountains. There is now

an urgent need to follow-up on the project recommendations by building partnerships and attracting donors for the effective and long-term protection of this forest. It is thus recommended that CEPF and partners explore ways to facilitate project outcomes, especially in view of the long-term commitment needed to achieve effective biodiversity conservation. In this context, Trento Museum and collaborators have established a long-term presence in the Udzungwa Mountains by establishing the Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre near the National Park's HQ (see www.udzungwacentre.org). This centre could act as the focal point for technical advice and coordination of conservation initiatives in the area.

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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