

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Restoring Forest Connectivity in the Udzungwa Mountains*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Mufindi District Council

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

Date of Report (month/year): March 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania were identified as one of the priority sites for investment in forest connectivity restoration in relation to CEPF's investment. The Mufindi forests lie at the south-western end of the Udzungwas. The forests are highly fragmented but have retained some important biological values including at least 10 vertebrate species endemic to the Udzungwas and an additional 7 Eastern Arc endemic vertebrates. The Mufindi forests can be characterized as islands of forest within a broader matrix of subsistence agriculture and tea, pine and eucalyptus plantations. The forests are under threat from fire and encroachment from agricultural land. Some of the forests have been heavily logged in the past.

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been working in Mufindi District since 1993. With CEPF's support, TFCG was enabled to scale up from working in two forests to ten. CEPF's support has also been a catalyst for securing funding from Unilever for the Lipton Mufindi Forest Conservation Project.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Local government, private sector, civil society organisations and communities in Mufindi District are working together to restore and increase Eastern Arc forest connectivity.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. <i>Forest connectivity restoration is under way in at least five sites in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi District.</i>	Forest connectivity restoration is underway in ten sites in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi District involving a combination of participatory forest management, tree planting, and fire management.
2. <i>There is increased active participation from local government, communities and private sector in forest connectivity restoration activities.</i>	10 villages are implementing participatory forest management as a result of CEPF's investment. Unilever Ltd have made a commitment to support some forest conservation-related activities. There is greater capacity in the participating villages to implement participatory forest management; to grow trees; to prepare fuel efficient stoves and to prevent and control wild fires.

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

The project achieved all of the intended impact objectives and in some instances exceeded the targets set out at the start of the project. Specifically the project has been able to support participatory forest management at 10 sites, double the amount anticipated in the original plan.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The speed at which communities are now willing to establish village forest reserves was not anticipated. This relates to the success which has been achieved by the early adopters of participatory forest management in Mufindi District. It also relates to the widespread awareness raising activities through the CEPF-financed TALK project.

The project succeeded in securing signed joint management agreements between Mufindi District Council and the respective villages for Lulanda and Lugoda-Lutali Local Authority Forest Reserves. In most of Tanzania, the government is not currently signing such agreements, it was a considerable achievement to secure communities legal right to jointly manage the reserves and to receive 50 % of the revenue from the reserves.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: A strategy for the restoration of forest connectivity in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi is developed and agreed upon by stakeholders.	A strategy and action plan for restoring forest connectivity in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi was developed and approved including the identification of priority sites. The plan was approved by a range of stakeholders during a workshop held in 2006. The plan formed the basis for the implementation of activities under Outputs 2 and 3 of the project.
<i>1.1. Research analysing potential and priority sites for restoring connectivity in Udzungwa Mountain forests of Mufindi District completed and results shared with stakeholders by end Y1 Q4.</i>	During a stakeholder workshop in August 2006, local government, private sector, civil society organisations and communities in Mufindi District developed a plan to work together to restore and increase Eastern Arc forest connectivity. The meeting drew upon biodiversity research conducted by TFCG and the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali (MTSN) as part of the CEPF-financed 'Filling the Knowledge Gap' project; remote sensing work undertaken by the Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests; participatory forest management planning undertaken by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group; research conducted by Unilever and local government plans. The meeting succeeded in selecting criteria for identifying potential sites for the restoration of forest connectivity as well as in identifying twelve sites with potential for forest restoration.

	<p>Following the workshop, the project officer visited the twelve sites that were identified as having potential for forest connectivity restoration. He walked along the boundary of the corridors with a GPS and digital camera in order to document the exact location of the corridors; to get an estimate of the area; to assess the extent of remaining natural habitat within these areas; to assess current land use; and to clarify which forest areas would be 'more connected' should the corridors be reforested. The proposed sites were also compared with aerial photos provided by WCS allowing the team to get a good overview of the potential sites in relation to the major forests in the area.</p> <p>Having collected more detailed data on these sites, four sites were selected for support from this project. The priority sites for support were: Itundagula corridor: Mnyangala corridor: Lulanda and Lugoda-Lutali. A fifth site at Ihanu was added in 2007. A sixth site, the Kigogo forest was identified but due to insufficient resources, this area was excluded.</p> <p>In 2008, at the request of the communities, participatory forest management was initiated at five additional sites.</p>
<p>Output 2: Restoration of forest connectivity supported at strategic sites in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi District to the benefit of the forest adjacent communities.</p>	<p>Through a combination of tree planting, fire exclusion and participatory forest management, forest connectivity restoration has been encouraged at ten sites in Mufindi District.</p>
<p><i>2.1. Connectivity restoration ongoing at, at least five sites and progress documented;</i></p>	<p>Forest connectivity restoration activities supported at 10 sites. This included the finalization of the JFM process for Lulanda and Lugoda-Lutali Local Authority Forest Reserves, including the signing of the joint management agreements between the District Authority and the respective Village Governments; the establishment of village forest reserves at Itundagula, Mnyangala, Ihanu, Mtambula, Magunguli, Mpanga, Lufuna and Ipilimo; fire line maintenance at Lulanda; and the planting of 50,300 seedlings of indigenous tree species.</p>
<p><i>2.2. Community benefits of tree planting realized in at least five villages.</i></p>	<p>Over 2 million tree seedlings have been planted in the participating villages in wood lots and through agroforestry. These trees are a vital source of fuel wood and building materials for the communities. Some of the timber is also traded. Communities were also trained on the construction and use of fuel efficient stoves such that in Mtwango and Lulanda Village, 43 % and 40 % of households are now using fuel efficient stoves respectively. People using the stoves claim that the number of times that they collect firewood has reduced from 3 days to 1 day per week.</p>
<p>Output 3: Strategy developed to sustain forest connectivity initiatives in the Udzungwa Mountains of Mufindi District.</p>	<p>Through capacity building and resource mobilisation, activities supported with CEPF investment are being sustained beyond the lifespan of the CEPF project.</p>
<p><i>3.1. Community members and TFCG staff have a greater capacity to support</i></p>	<p>Training was provided to 1640 people. Some of the topics covered by the training programmes included</p>

<i>connectivity activities;</i>	participatory forest management, fire prevention and control, fuel efficient stove preparation and use and agroforestry. In addition, the Village Natural Resources committees were provided with equipment to support their work including gum boots, rain coats, bicycles and stationery.
3.2. Resources mobilized to sustain connectivity initiatives by Y3 Q4	Through discussions with potential donors, Unilever Ltd have established the Lipton Mufindi Forest Conservation Programme which includes EURO 15,000 per year for 3 years for forest conservation and fuel efficient stove promotion in five villages. The African Rainforest Conservancy have also agreed to provide support for forest restoration in some of the key sites in Mufindi including at least US\$ 11,000 in 2009. A further EURO 250,000 has been committed by Unilever for forest conservation in the area. Additional support is needed in order to secure the conservation of one of the most important forests in the region, Kigogo.

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

The project succeeded in achieving all of the intended outputs.

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

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)

From the outset the project involved key local stakeholders. A planning meeting was held in Mufindi in May 2005 involving local government, communities, private sector and other civil society organizations. The outputs and activities included in the project document strongly reflected the recommendations of the stakeholders during that meeting. TFCG also consulted with national level stakeholders during the planning of the project through meetings held in Dar es Salaam. This helped to ensure that the project complement rather than duplicate other activities.

Having strong local involvement during the planning stage has meant that the project has been able to identify potential areas for the restoration of forest connectivity quite rapidly and with strong local 'buy-in'.

Discussions with other stakeholders during the planning and implementation of the project meant that the TFCG Forest Connectivity Restoration project in Mufindi was complemented by the research carried out through the 'Filling the Knowledge Gap' project and by the awareness raising activities implemented under the CEPF 'TALK' project. In addition, the provision of aerial photographs by WCS helped in planning the priority connectivity areas.

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

One area which the project was not able to achieve was the improvement of the management of Kigogo Forest Reserve. Kigogo has the most restricted range species of any of the Mufindi forests and urgently needs additional conservation investment. Due to the cut in the funds between the original Letter of Inquiry and the final approved budget, the project was not able to extend to Kigogo Forest. Supporting the conservation of this critical forest remains a priority for future funding in the area.

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	Date Received	Notes
African Rain forest Conservancy	Project co-financing	\$16900	Various – see notes	2006 US\$ 3500 wages for field workers and technical support 2007 US\$ 5000 for fireline clearing, training, field office maintenance and technical support 2008 US\$ 8400 for complementary livelihood support activities, field workers and technical support

***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 project will continue to provide support to communities and District authorities in Mufindi to restore and maintain forest connectivity. This has been made possible

through the support of the African Rainforest Conservancy and the Lipton Mufindi Forest Conservation Project which has been financed by the Lipton Global Brand Team.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you very much to CEPF for the invaluable support that you have provided to restoring forest connectivity in the Mufindi Forests over the last 3 years.

It is recommended that future investments seek to include the Kigogo Forest.

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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