

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Wildlife Works EPZ Ltd.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *The Wildlife Works/Verde Ventures Kasigau Reforestation Project*

Implementation Partners for This Project: Wildlife Works Carbon LLC

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): September 1, 2006 - April 30, 2010

Date of Report (month/year): Final Report June 2010.

II. OPENING REMARKS

Firstly, we would like to thank CEPF and Verde Ventures for their enthusiasm for our project and for the financial input that we have received from them. The initial goal of this project was to plant out, and have survive, 20,000 indigenous tree seedlings around Mt. Kasigau, which would enrich the 'buffer zone' between the community and the fragile Eastern Arc Forest remnant that covers the mountain top. We have encountered serious challenges to our initial concept, most of which are linked to the unforeseen prolonged period of drought that we have experienced over the last 3 years.

This has meant that we have not achieved the project's goals within the designated timeframe, however we have achieved a good deal and we still truly believe that the objectives of this project are absolutely essential to the continued survival of the fragile forest ecosystem on Mt Kasigau.

Recent developments within Wildlife Works and the inception of our Kasigau Corridor REDD Project have enabled us to provide the additional co-financing required to complete our original project.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The goal of the Kasigau reforestation project is to achieve biodiversity, conservation and economic empowerment for the local community.

The objectives the community tree nursery groups are working towards are:

- a) To propagate indigenous tree species, and replant areas that have been seriously denuded by uncontrolled charcoal burning and logging for domestic timber.
- b) To restore the depleted hardwood tree numbers so as to improve soil conservation and water catchments in the area and relieve pressure on the mountains' cloud forest.
- c) To involve and empower community members to be part of the restoration of their environment.
- d) Promote nature-based sustainable businesses that benefit the local population.

This project began in December 2006. Organic tree nursery management training was carried out in January 2007; the community groups established their nurseries in March 2007 with equipment that had been supplied to increase their tree propagation capacities. The first planting out of the trees was in November 2007. The report for the first year was submitted in February 2008.

This 3-year project is working towards building the capacity of 9 Kasigau Community tree nursery groups to manage organically propagated indigenous tree seedlings and reforest selected denuded areas. And plant agro forestry trees and fruit trees in the farmlands as soft cash crops. This project will achieve the CEPF strategic direction 1, i.e. To increase the ability of local populations to benefit from, and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

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

No. We still maintain that the best way of ensuring the survival of the endangered cloud forest on top of Mt Kasigau, is to replenish the forest on the lower slopes of the mountain.

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

Whilst we still haven't achieved what we set out to achieve by planting out 20,000 tree seedlings within the 3 years of the project period, the Kasigau community still believe that only by replenishing the wood-stocks around the mountain, will the endangered forest on top of Kasigau be guaranteed a secure future. Whilst the initial and final objective may not have been reached in its entirety, many positive gains for the future success of the project were reached:

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.

The 2007-2009 drought essentially wiped out the tree nurseries, which meant that we had no trees to plant out during the final phase of the project. This was hugely disappointing to all stakeholders in the project, who had put in thousands of hours of their time and effort into the project. Water sources that had previously been locally known as reliable failed during this period and what little water remained available had to be utilized for limited food production and to keep livestock alive as far as possible. The Kasigau zone suffered roughly 75% livestock deaths and the community eventually relied almost entirely on relief food rations for their own survival.

As a result of this natural disaster, community's development priorities have changed considerably, though they remain steadfastly aware of the value of the cloud forest and the projects goals for their future. It is important to note here, that the cloud forest largely survived the drought, and its importance as a watershed has been intensified as a consequence, so that the value of completing this project has become more recognized by the Kasigau community.

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.

We'll start with the positive lessons learnt first this time and list them below:-

- The Taita region has just suffered from the worst drought in living memory and the importance of having an intact watershed, that can provide water enough to sustain basic needs for the community has been realised.
- The community demonstrated a genuine interest in trying to develop the best methods by which they could replenish the degraded woodland belt that surrounds Mt Kasigau in order to protect the cloud forest and their vital watershed.
- The community implemented the tree nurseries with enthusiasm and we believe that they now possess the knowledge that is required to replicate this project once water development initiatives have made access to water more reliable.
- Though not actually part of the initial project objectives; community interest stimulated the development of a tree seedling propagation and planting manual, which has been extensively replicated and widely utilized.

And now the negatives:-

- Even a water source that has not historically failed, can dry up as a result of extreme drought, especially in an area where population growth and subsequent demands are high.

- During times of duress, developing communities will have to resort to essential needs, which invariably will not include long-term development projects that utilize immediate resources.

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

The key learning for us from the first phase was that remote tree nurseries located in villages with no permanent water source was a risky endeavor, and was not viable in the face of the terrible drought that hit East Africa over the past three years. Therefore with the rains now returning, we determined the best way forward was to build larger nurseries adjacent to reliable water sources, and to permanently employ members of the community to manage the nurseries under our direct supervision. Therefore we used some of the funding previously earmarked for post planting support to fund the building of a large tree nursery in Maungu town, close to a permanent water supply. The costs of building this nursery were Labor - \$3386.67 and materials/equipment \$11,593.20. As a result of this strategy to move the greenhouse closer to our headquarters our travel time and expense for management was negated, so we applied the remaining travel (\$2124.03) budget in addition to the remaining equipment budget of \$1012.76 towards the cost of this new larger nursery leaving a deficit of $\$11,593.20 - (\$2124.03 + 1012.76) = \$8,456.41$. Wildlife Works Carbon LLC agreed to make up this shortfall in funding as a co-investment in this project.

The balance of the post planting support finances were used to jump start the indigenous tree propagation process wherein we put out a call to the Kasigau communities for indigenous tree seedlings on the 10th of March 2010. This was made possible by the long awaited arrival of reasonable rains, following one of the most severe East African droughts in living memory, and means the communities can recover some of the project income from tree seedling generation that they lost when they were forced to let their village nurseries fail during the drought.

Community registration for this was carried out at the Marungu Hill Conservancy office, in Maungu on the 12th of April. The same was also carried out on the 13th of April 2010, at the Kasigau Conservation trust office in Rukanga. Total cost to project in payments to community 200,000KSh- (20,000 seedlings * 10 KSh- per) or \$2667. Together with the \$3,386.67 labor costs associated with building the new nursery, outlined above, this left a deficit in labor and benefits for the project budget of \$215.51. Wildlife Works Carbon LLC agreed to make up this shortfall in funding as a co-investment in this project. (Note that Wildlife Works Carbon LLC is also agreeing to pay for an additional 20,000 seedlings at an additional co-investment cost of \$2,667).

These seedlings will require a year of maturing before we are able to plant them out on the slopes of Mt. Kasigau, as planned. This will take the activities beyond the time horizon for the CEPF grant, which ends April 30th 2010.

Therefore we plan to use the our own REDD project funding to plant the seedlings out and to ensure the seedlings will survive in the wild for a period of at least three years which will ensure that they can tolerate dry periods, fires and predation by domestic animals. This additional phase of the project has been presented and explained and accepted by the communities, who feel that although they have suffered a severe setback because of the drought, they will achieve the goals they initially set out to achieve. The cost of this phase of the project will be as stated in our original project proposal, 30KSh- for each tree that survives three years, or 600,000 KSh- for 20,000 trees (\$8000 co-investment by Wildlife Works Carbon LLC).

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

Wildlife Works and the Kasigau Community still believe that our plan to reward community members financially for planting out and looking after the seedlings for a three year period, so as to safeguard their survival to maturity, is viable and we would like to have the opportunity to see our methodology through. Though the CEPF project period is now over, we will undertake to report to CI on our findings at the end of the project.

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
Wildlife Works Carbon LLC	A	\$19,338.92	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

****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.

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