

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organisation Legal Name: African Butterfly Research Institute

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Overview of Butterfly Faunas of Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests: Biodiversity, Endemism, Conservation

Implementation Partners for This Project: The Project was carried out entirely by African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI) personnel.

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): February 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): January, 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

ABRI was established in 1997, and was founded on the Collins collection, to which was added the Kielland collection in 1996 (*Butterflies of Tanzania*). With more recent additions the whole exceeds 1 million specimens of sub-Saharan butterflies. It is a recognised world base reference collection of African butterflies, and has been used in the preparation of a number of monographs on Afrotropical butterflies, including the *Butterflies of Tanzania (Supplement)* (Congdon and Collins 1998), revised edition of *Butterflies of Kenya* (Larsen 1996), and *Butterflies of West Africa* (Larsen 2005). The collection is the assemblage of over thirty people's lifetime work on African butterflies, and represents hundreds of thousands of hours of work.

The Project Leader, Steve Collins, is a Kenya citizen who has collected butterflies all his life. The Principal Researchers, Colin Congdon and Ivan Bampton (both British), have between them well over 100 years' experience of working in Africa, mainly East Africa. Both have been Research Associates of ABRI since its inception. Co-researches Peter Walwanda (Kenyan) and Martin Hassan (Tanzanian) have many years of field experience.

The Report is based on field research in the target Sites, supplemented by reference to material in the ABRI Collection and National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. Initial Objective

The objective was to improve biological knowledge in specific named Sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Northern Zanzibar-Inhambane Coastal Forest Mosaic. The sites were selected to give a wide range of habitat types, and at the same time to cover known areas of high biodiversity and endemism. The selected Sites were:

Eastern Arc Mountains:

Taita Hills, Pare Mountains, Usambara West, Usambara East, Nguru, Uluguru, Udzungwa.

Northern Zanzibar-Inhambane Coastal Forest Mosaic:

Arabuku-Sokoke, Kimboza, Pugu Hills, Rondo Plateau/Lindi Coastal, Jozani.

The specific objectives were to achieve the following:

- Enable an overview of zonal butterfly biodiversity
- Provide a baseline study of butterfly distributions
- Develop conservation priorities
- Compile an annotated checklist of endemic/near endemic butterflies

2. The overall objectives remained unchanged throughout the project. However, in the course of our researches we found it necessary to develop Threat Categories for butterflies. These are based on but differ from the categories used by ornithologists. While they do not as yet have international recognition, they were an essential tool for the assessment of conservation priorities. The development of these categories was greatly assisted by discussions at the Monitoring Workshop held in Dar es Salaam, May 30th to June 1st, 2005.
3. We believe that our overall objective has been achieved. Of the specific objectives, a weak area is in the development of conservation measures. The research findings indicate quite clearly where the priorities lie, but conservation measures need to be site specific, and are outside the scope of the project.
4. We experienced neither disappointment nor failure. As is inevitable with this kind of project, the continual complaint is lack of time. Nevertheless we feel that given the time constraint we achieved as much as could reasonably be expected.
5. Lessons learned. For this kind of project, as far as possible in-country research resources should be used. This has the twin advantages of reducing establishment costs and taking advantage of local experience. Local people know the ropes and speak the language.

6. Follow-up actions:

- The project dealt with specific sites. There are other sites within the Biodiversity Hotspot in which there are single site endemic species. The survival status of these butterflies has not been examined, and needs to be established.
- With baselines established, monitoring is now required. This in turn will necessitate the recruitment and training of local monitors.

7. We hope that we have supplied all the information needed. Queries and correspondence to:

Steve Collins
Box 14308
Nairobi
Kenya

Phone +254 20 882297
Mobile +254 722701021
Email: scollins@iconnect.co.ke

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount	Notes
ABRI	A	18,917	

The project is now complete.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We wish to thank CEPF for clear guidance and prompt correspondence. The project could not have been completed without the whole-hearted support of the relevant Government agencies in the two Countries. The National Museums of Kenya and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology are deserving of particular thanks, and we are most grateful to Prof Kim Howell of the University of Dar es Salaam for encouragement and advice. Dr Kaj Vollesen of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK) has helped with plant identifications, furthering our understanding of the biology of butterfly species. We feel that this report should be considered for publication in the East African Journal of Natural History.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

In principle we are in agreement with the sharing of information. We therefore agree to the CEPF publishing the text of this report on their website and in their newsletter and other communications.

This agreement is subject only to copyright. Copyright must be retained by CEPF; references to the project report may be made, but no part of the text, diagram, figure, table or plate may be reproduced without permission from CEPF. Such permission is only to be granted with the approval of ABRI.

For more information about this project, please contact:

Steve C Collins
P O Box 14308
Nairobi
Kenya

Phone: +254 20 882297
Mobile: +254 722701021
Fax: +254 20 884554
Email: scollins@iconnect.co.ke