

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Kaya Muhaka Forest Conservation Organization

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Conservation and Management Policy Development

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Coastal Forest Conservation Unit, WWF EARPO, Local Community, ICIPE, Colobus Trust, Forest Department and Kenya Wildlife Service.

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** May 1, 2005 - April 30, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Kaya Muhaka Forest Conservation Organization would like to express their gratitude for having been one of the recipients of the CEPF grant. This grant enabled the organization to implement some activities in line with their request. However it should be noted due to unavoidable circumstances, the grant came a little bit late and not the date indicated in the agreement.

We wish to inform CEPF that the project started in August 2005 and therefore some activities were affected by this delay.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To involve the local community around Kaya Muhaka Sacred Forest in biodiversity Conservation and to make sure that they gain tangible socio-economic benefits in order to improve their livelihood.

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

No.

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

The project has attained some degree of success in achieving some of the expected objectives. Kaya Muhaka Forest Conservation Organization was able to initiate almost all the activities as stipulated in the project document despite the delay of the grant. Some of the core activities that were initiated and have shown success are as follows:

### **Bee-Keeping**

- Purchase of bee hives done and accessories.
- Training in bee-keeping for the Community.
- Establishment of an apiary.

### **Establishment of a tree Nursery**

- Training of the community in nursery establishment done.
- Tree nursery in place with over 10,000 assorted seedlings.
- Community Woodlots in place.
- Buffer zone of fast growing species started around the Kaya Muhaka forest.

### **Exchange visit**

Two exchange visits were done in Kwale and Malindi to expose the group in nursery management, bee-keeping and other nature based micro-enterprises.

### **Awareness**

Six community awareness meetings have been done to sensitize the community on the importance of conserving Kaya Muhaka Forest.

### **Forest Inspection**

Joint forest inspections were done by NMK-CFCU and the community. The status of the forest has shown positive changes from the inception of the project. Cases of forest destruction have reduced.

### **Inventory of birds and mammal species of Kaya Muhaka.**

The research has been conducted and the report is ready. The report shows that Kaya forest has a variety of important birds and mammal species some of which are rare and endangered.

### **Documentation of ethno-ecological values of birds and mammals.**

This was successfully done and the report is ready. The report has also shown that some of the traditional beliefs have contributed to the conservation of the forest and some of the animals found in the forest.

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 group experienced some challenges during the implementation of the project. One of the biggest challenges is that we had so many activities and the funds allocated to some of the activities was not enough. To address this, the group had to reduce the number of activities by adjusting the expenditure. A good example can be taken in the bee-keeping component. The number of hives had to be reduced to allow the purchase of accessories.

On nursery establishment, the initial focus was from seed collection to transplanting in the field. It was realized later that extra management is required. This had some cost implication that was not budgeted for. This forced us to borrow from other activities to supplement the affected areas.

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. The introduction of livelihood projects to communities living adjacent to the forests will enhance conservation of biodiversity. The participatory approach has really helped in achieving the intended objectives. Kaya Muhaka Forest Conservation Organization together with CFCU and other stakeholders set up a management structure to implement the activities. The entire committee of the umbrella group worked closely with CFCU. Sub-committees were put in place to implement specific activities and therefore this ensured that there was a division of labour and proper management.

Another lesson learnt is on financial management. The community was empowered to make all financial transactions concerning the project. This included withdrawing money from the bank, purchasing and record keeping. The role of CFCU as a co-partner was to make sure that there was transparency and accountability in all areas. The group has really worked positively and the flow of funds was swift. This built trust among the group and other stakeholders.

The involvement of women in the project was a big boost in the project. It was observed that in many occasions, the women availed themselves to undertake the activities more than men.

One lesson learnt during the Malindi visit is that the youth are not well represented in the Kaya Muhaka project. This was identified after seeing how the youths are represented by our colleagues in the areas we visited. This was seen as a challenge for Kaya Muhaka group to encourage the youth to join the group.

Although it has been explained that most of the activities were implemented by the community themselves, it was observed that the capacity of the community to undertake some of the activities independently was very low. This called for more involvement of other partners especially CFCU more than it was anticipated.

The number of activities planned in the project proved to be more than what it could be accomplished within the specified time. This is why a short delay for one activity could affect another activity while others were affected by climatic conditions i.e. rainfall.

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

While some activities in the project document were accomplished, others are on-going and therefore a follow-up is necessary. The on-going activities are:

- **Bee-keeping**- It was observed that one-off training was not enough. More training is required in apiary management, processing of honey products and marketing. Follow up visits by experts, purchasing of additional bee-hives, bee-keeping equipment i.e. extractor, processor and harvesting gears are needed.
- **Nursery establishment and tree management** – Expansion of the nursery in terms of species diversity is needed. Management of already planted trees should continue e.g. fire breaks, weeding, pruning, and watering. There is a need for independent and reliable source of water for sustainability of the nursery. Creation of buffer zone will continue. On farm forestry using the seedlings from the nursery will continue.
- **Environmental Awareness Programme**- This need to be expanded to include more schools and other groups like women groups. The youth should be the major target for future sustainability of the project.

- **Forest Inspection**- This is an on going activity.
- **Clearing of invasive species**- It has been realized that this can take long before all the invasive species are cleared. At the moment this activity should be treated as on going.

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

While it has been noted that donors are not comfortable in payments of salaries in projects, it has been observed through our project that it is very hard to undertake some activities without some form of direct financial support to some community members. The group was forced to hire someone to guard and watering of transplanted seedlings from destruction by the monkeys.

The financial support received from CEPF was low and the timeframe was too short to measure the indicators for success or failures of this 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.**

**This is not applicable for Kaya Muhaka. No grant has been received so far from any other donor.**

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.)*

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.

## V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The overall objective of the grant is well timed but the ceiling is too low considering the number of activities to be undertaken by the projects in a given area.
- Delays in transfer of funds affect some activities. We recommend that once a project has been approved, the funds should be released immediately for the activities to start.
- We recommend that funding of Kaya Muhaka project should be extended to accomplish the identified gaps. If this is possible, a detailed concept with a budget can be prepared and sent to CEPF.
- CEPF should allow for adjustments of financial budget allocation.

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please also complete the following:

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