



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND



Project Title: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Coordination Unit: CEPF Investment Coordination and Sustainability in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Kenya and Tanzania

Region or Country: Africa: Kenya & Tanzania
Focal Area: Biodiversity Conservation
Amount of Financing: USD \$ 780, 000
Project Status: Ongoing

Donor: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Duration: 5 years (2004 – 2008)
Last Updated: March 2007
Collaborators: Coordination Unit (Nature Kenya, WSCT, ICIPE, WWFEARPO, and TFCG)

Project Description:

- i) **Overall Goal:** The biodiversity of the EACF region is conserved in perpetuity, with no further species extinctions, through a combination of sound conservation science and the active engagement of civil society
- ii) **Objectives:** To ensure an effective, efficient and coordinated approach amongst stakeholders and is established to achieve the CEPF conservation outcomes for the Eastern Arc/Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot
- iii) **Rationale:** CEPF is investing its conservation funds in the EACF region of Kenya and Tanzania. The conservation efforts by CEPF in the region is coordinated by a Coordination Unit (CU), which serves as the 'eyes and ears' of CEPF in the region. The CU comprises of BirdLife International (Africa Secretariat, Nature Kenya and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania), International Centre for Insect Physiology (ICIPE), World Wide Fund for Nature-East Africa Regional Programmes Office (WWFEARPO) and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG). The four work together with [CEPF](#) to achieve the conservation outcomes for the EACF.

Main Activities

- provide local ownership and transparency in the administration of funds and selection of projects;
- provide local capacity for outreach and awareness-raising for CEPF funding;
- provide assistance as required for CBOs and NGOs in proposal development;
- provide a comprehensive portfolio that addresses all the Strategic Funding Directions and Investment Priorities in the Ecosystem Profile and that involves a diversity of civil society stakeholders.

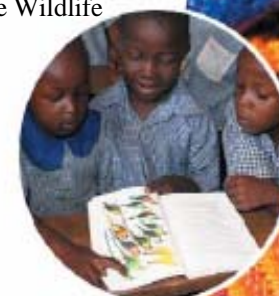
Progress:

BirdLife is taking a lead on “ensuring a comprehensive and complimentary suite of CEPF Projects (within budget) is in place to fully address the SFDs/IPs identified in the Ecosystem Profile. The following has been achieved:

- 338 grant applications submitted and reviewed. Of this, funds have been allocated to 83 to implement research, actual conservation and sustainable development projects across the region.
- Linkages and partnerships among EACF stakeholders have been fostered leading to a significant participation and engagement of the civil society in conservation and poverty alleviation initiatives.
- Investment portfolio analysis has regularly been conducted, gaps analysis done and recommendations made in the Annual project portfolio report.
- CEPF grantee and conservation outcome data bases and tracking sheets are regularly maintained and updated
- A community micro grants and small grants for postgraduate students’ schemes were launched to support community-based organizations and students benefit from and fully contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Contact Us

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Lessons Learned:

- The CEPF initiative has demonstrated that the civil society has the interest and enthusiasm to participate and initiate conservation action if provided with the opportunity. This has largely made the CEPF project in the region acceptable.
- Increasing direct benefits from forest-related income generating activities such can create a motivated 'constituency' within the communities who will be proactive in conserving forests.
- Forging collaboration with existing initiatives, both local and international partners can effectively ensure joint planning, transfer of expertise and sharing of collective experience, has potential to reduce duplication of activities and if this impetus endures will ensure sustainability of conservation and livelihood activities
- Communication with CBOs is important to ensure that their capacity needs are continuously addressed

Challenges

- It is difficult for civil society to address the illegal activities that are the principal drivers of forest degradation in East Africa in the absence of political will and adequate resources for forest protection agencies
- Sustaining the income generating activities beyond the project period is a difficult task.

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