

**Project Title:** Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPGF) Small Grants for Student Research in the in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests (EACF) of Kenya and Tanzania

<b>Region or Country:</b>	Africa: Kenya & Tanzania	<b>Donor:</b>	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
<b>Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity Conservation	<b>Duration:</b>	5 years (2004 – 2008)
<b>Amount of Financing:</b>	USD \$ 200, 000	<b>Last Updated:</b>	March 2007
<b>Collaborators:</b>	Coordination Unit (Nature Kenya, WSCT,ICIPE, WWFEARPO, and TFCG) and local universities in Kenya & Tanzania		
<b>Project Status:</b>	Ongoing		

**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:** Targeted efforts to increase connectivity, biological knowledge, and the conservation of threatened species are supported through the Small Grants programme for student research
- iii) **Rationale:** Since 2004, CEPF is investing its conservation funds in the EACF region of Kenya and Tanzania. Student researchers were not adequately represented among the CEPF grantees and therefore this project is focused on the student grants. Eligible grantees are students at graduate and post graduate level planning to undertake research work within the hotspot that either contributes significantly to the conservation of (critically) threatened species (including projects that generate information that contributes to Red List Assessments) or increase connectivity. This programme is envisioned to contribute towards building capacity in research and conservation amongst Kenyan and Tanzanian students.

**Main Activities**

This grant scheme is being administered by BirdLife International (Africa Partnership Secretariat, Nature Kenya and Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania) on behalf of CEPF with support from the Coordination Unit (CU) comprising of International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and World Wide Fund for Nature-East Africa Regional Programmes Office (WWF-EARPO). Activities include:

- Monitor small grants programme for research student s in the quarterly CU meetings.
- Raise awareness through a variety of media about the small grants for students research programme And how stakeholders can access grants.
- Receive, process and distribute funds for Small Grants Projects
- Prepare and finalize contracts for successful applicants for Small Grants
- Receive and process final reports from completed Small Grant projects.
- Design and implement an internal evaluation process for Small Grants Programme.
- Liaise with CEPF to ensure that all reporting requirements are met.

**Contact Us**

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### Progress:

- An application format, guidelines and eligibility criteria for applying for the small grants were developed and publicized
- Publicity posters, notices and other materials have been disseminated (including electronically) to target audience at research and academic institution in Kenya and Tanzania
- A review process for small grants that is objective transparent and efficient has been developed and is operational
- The agreed review process is being implemented in a timely and objective manner.
- To facilitate the review process, a gap analysis based on the CEPF project portfolio was conducted, sites, species and Thematic areas that have hitherto received little attention highlighted. Through this programme, all efforts are being made to fill these gaps.
- The contractual and management arrangements to ensure rapid disbursement of funds have been put in place and already the first batches of grantees are implementing their projects.
- Grantees have been linked to ongoing projects and other conservation initiatives in the region
- The CU reviewers have been engaged to review applications to the small grants
- Detailed criteria for selection of grantee projects developed and are being applied

### Lessons Learned

The launch of this scheme is timely and will go a long way in providing local students with an opportunity to translate their skills and ideas into actual research and conservation. Considering the quality of the majority of applications and the overwhelming response elicited from applicants demonstrates the great, yet to be tapped potential amongst students to significantly contribute towards biodiversity research and conservation if modest financial support is provided.

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