

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Kaya Kinondo Conservation and Development Group & Coastal Forest Conservation Unit

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Project

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): 18 months (October, 2004- March, 2006)

Date of Report (month/year): 11th September, 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Kaya Kinondo Conservation & Development Group would like to convey their appreciation for having been one of the recipients of the CEPF grant. This grant enabled the group to implement some activities in line with their request.

This grant contributed so much in enhancing conservation of the precious resource, namely; Kaya Kinondo forest, management and sustainable utilization of the forest as well. This was realized due to the participatory system which was already in place and operational.

The surrounding community has been conserving the biodiversity and cultural values of Kaya Kinondo through the ecotourism project for social and economic development.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To build on the progress made in Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Project in the previous three years. It was aimed to address the gaps identified over the years which included marketing, community development to ensure conservation and development of the threatened biodiversity is maintained. Site enhancement to make the Kaya more visitor appealing while not interfering with its sanctity was also part of the objective.

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

No.

Yes-Can we state that the need for

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 Kinondo Conservation and Development Group were able to initiate almost all the activities as stipulated in the project document. Some of the core activities that were initiated and have shown success are as follows:

On site training for local tour guides

Two guides were identified and trained as tour guides. They joined the project as volunteers doing marketing in the local hotels and also doubling up as tour guides. The on site training was conducted by the Tourism officer from CFCU and the project manager. A lot of emphasis was in interpretation of traditional and cultural information which is the main attraction when doing the forest walk. Scientific knowledge was sought from CFCU office which has a lot of data from previous research works done at the site.

Visitor handling and conservation concept was part of the training also and today Kaya Kinondo can boast to have good forest guides. This can be proved by the fact that almost all the visitors are happy after visiting the project. The visitors' book has many remarks of satisfaction from the visitors.

Schools environmental awareness program

This started by visiting the two schools in the two villages surrounding Kaya Kinondo forest and giving talks on conservation and also showing videos on Kayas and others which showed the impact of forest destruction to forests and water catchments areas. There are more than 1200 children in the two schools who participated.

The project also organized an awareness competition for the two schools. This was made to be a major event that brought the two schools together to compete in essay writing, poems and dances that stressed the theme of the event which is conservation. The winners were awarded with certificates prizes. Parents and other organizations attended this remarkable open day.

A lot of awareness was done and as a result of this, schools from the villages and a far started bringing children to the Kaya forest to learn about the history and culture of the mijikenda people and also conservation concept.

Local stakeholders meeting on conservation guidelines development

This has been conducted throughout the project period and is still going on. The Kaya Elders, women groups, CFCU and other conservation groups had to sit and develop simple guidelines for the site. This included visitor handling, site management, forest management, financial management and project long-term strategy.

The project has been able to bring together residents neighbors, hoteliers, tour operators, local NGO's and government departments as well. As a result of this, the project today has a business plan and a draft of a management plan which is being developed.

Establishment of community tree nursery

A tree nursery was established in one of the two schools. This decision came after establishing the need for water. There is no source of water that is close to the Kaya forest. This is one of the successful activities of the project. In May, 2007, the school donated 2000 seedlings to the community members while 500 were planted at the

school compound. This included both indigenous and exotic species. Training on nursery management was conducted to teachers, some parents and the pupils.

Through the knowledge received, the school management has improved the tree nursery and today it is bigger than when it was started.

Women groups training on handicrafts, Neem and Aloe products

All women groups registered to the umbrella Kaya Kinondo Conservation Group, received trainings on soap making using aloe and neem. This activity had to be repeated in order to ensure the production of quality soap. Today, soaps are sold at the visitor centre to visitors.

This knowledge has really helped as apart from doing group work, some women are utilizing the knowledge by producing soaps for sale during the open air market taking place weekly in the local township. This has contributed to the uplifting the standards of their lives.

Purchase of coconut and neem oil processing machine

This has not been acquired yet as there has been conflicting ideas on which machine to buy following the experiences from other projects with similar machines, it was realized that the machines are not effective and women in neighboring villages like Tiwi have completely abandoned the machines. The project linked up with WWF-Kwale landscape project which purchased a more modern machine which is effective and simpler to use. The machine has already been bought and awaits installation.

The funds for this purpose were therefore used to further training the women who are now producing good soaps and other herbal products. Kaya Kinondo visitor continue being the main market for these products

Exhibition and market linkage for community products

The project conducted an exhibition in partnership with KAFU which was done at Ukunda, the nearest township. This exhibition contributed in awareness and also generated an income from the products that were sold. It was also part of marketing as more people now became aware of the ecotourism project going on at Kinondo.

Other exhibitions that the project took part are as follows:

- Exhibition at Bamburi open day
- Exhibition at Nyali in partnership with KGT and WWF
- Exhibition of products during ASK show in Mombasa

Kaya Kinondo is now the learning centre for the history and culture of the mijikenda people. All people who now want to know about the Kaya Forests get this opportunity by visiting Kaya Kinondo.

Brochure and poster re-print

6000 brochures and 50 posters were printed during the project period. These brochures were distributed to various tour companies, hotels and learning institutions as part of marketing. This has helped a lot as the number of visitors is now going up. Presently, Kaya Kinondo receives between 100-150 visitors per month from the previous 50-80 visitors per month.

The number of educational institutions is also increasing. Also as part of awareness and marketing, 200 T-shirts were printed and distributed to community members and other partners.

One promotion trip for local tourism industry stakeholders

This activity was done jointly by Kaya Kinodo project and Mwaluganje elephant sanctuary. At least six tour companies and tour agents sent their representatives. There were two objectives here. One was to increase the number of visitors and the other was to come up with a full day tour for the two sites as a package. It was planned that visitors could visit Kaya Kinondo in the morning and visit Mwaluganje in the afternoon for game drives. Though the promotion trip was so successful, it has not contributed a lot to the expectations of the project. This has proved to be an ongoing thing but the main challenge is finance. It is an activity that needs to be undertaken at least twice every year.

Website development

This is another activity that has gone through processes. It started with collecting information for the website. An expert in website design was assigned to do the work and the website has been developed already. However, it had to go through a lot of process to make sure that the information contained in the website is what it takes to show to the world. This was a slow process as it involved making corrections here and there but finally the website is now ready and it will be hosted soon.

Television set, video machine and refrigerator for the cultural centre

All the above items were bought and they are quite useful at the centre. The television set and the video machine are always used when the project receives educational institutions who want to learn a lot about the Kayas. They have also helped in selling of video cd's at the centre. Many people buy the video cd's after watching them.

The refrigerator is also in use. Soft drinks such as soda and water are now sold at the site hence generating income to the project.

Electricity installation at the visitor centre

Installation of electricity was done in the second quarter of this project. It has helped a lot in enhancing the site. The power supports the use of the refrigerator, video machine and television set at the centre. Initially, the project had to hire a generator to use the TV and the video machine.

Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Project now generates an income from this electricity by sale of cd's, selling soft drinks and charging cell phones from the community members who do not have electricity in their homes.

Raised platform in the forest

This activity had to be put off after a number of reasons. It was realized later after doing an exchange visit to Arabuko sokoke forest in the north coast that the budget for this activity was very small. The kaya elders had conflicting opinions on where to put up the watch tower. Due to the cost of putting up the watch tower and its maintenance, and also the feeling of dividing the community as regards to the location, the management committee decided to shelve this activity and transfer the budget to another prioritized activity.

The funds were used to boost the security of the cultural centre by fixing door and window grills. The walls were painted and the makuti roof which had started leaking was fixed. Now the place looks impressive. Part of the money was put in supporting marketing by doing simple repairs on the folders and marketing boards that are used for marketing in the hotels.

Also from this budget, some funds were used to acquire papers of the Kaya Kinondo Mini bus. The project bought a second hand mini bus from award money received from WWF Sweden. The award only was able to buy the mini bus. Some more expenses like papers and servicing the vehicle had to be met by the project. The mini bus is used to carry visitors to Kaya Kinondo and it has greatly supported in generating income for the community enterprise.

Cultural centre furniture

The project managed to acquire basic furniture for the centre. This includes two office tables, chairs and shelves. Also 20 plastic chairs were bought and they are very useful. At least the office is now presentable and also a big group can be accommodated. However, there is still need for more furniture in the inner office and the reception area.

Two drop toilets

Two drop-toilets were constructed at the visitor centre and are already in use. These have helped a great deal in enhancing the visitor centre. Initially, visitors had to go to the bush to relieve themselves after a long journey. It was also very disturbing to the project staff when visitors asked about the toilet. Presently, it is no longer a shame when visitors ask on where the toilet is.

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.

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.

-One key lesson learn is that Kaya Kinondo has become a learning centre for learning institutions as well other communities like Muhaka.

-There is need for continued capacity building for the community to manage the enterprise more effectively. It has been observed that such initiatives take long for the community to catch up in all aspects of management. Other organizations should reflect their support for the success of such initiatives.

-Marketing is very key and expensive. It would be good for such a project to look for a strategic private partner who will help in more up-scale activities like marketing and promotion which community have little capacity to effectively undertake.

-The role of support institutions either government or non government must be well explained and understood by the communities. Some kind of agreement should be developed where roles and responsibilities of each is well defined

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.

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:

- **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.

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 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 Kinondo. 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.
- 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, 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:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Hemed M. Mwafujo
Mailing address: P.O. Box 86, Ukunda-80400, KENYA.
Tel: +254 722 446 916
Fax:
E-mail: kayakinondo@yahoo.com