

# Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** Wildlife Conservation Society

**Project Title:** Aerial digital mapping of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya.

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** CI-CABS (Collaboration with data collection protocol, survey design and analysis), Forest & Beekeeping Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (Tanzania), Catchment Forest Project – Eastern Arc Mountains Trust Fund, Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests, Nature Kenya, Arocha Kenya, Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** 1 June 2005 – 31 December 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** July 2007

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

Produce high resolution, geo-rectified, digital image data set for all the forests of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya.

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

The objectives did not change.

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

The project was partially successful in meeting the objectives. Digital, georectified image mosaics were produced for 23 forest reserves and corridor areas. However, the scope of coverage was limited to the Udzungwa, Rubeho, Mahenge mountains and portions of the Kilombero Valley.

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.

We did have a fairly disappointing time in implementation of this project. However, that can be considered as a learning curve as this project was experimental.

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 EnsoMOSAIC aerial mapping and image mosaic making system is a very good low-end aerial photographic setup. It produces high resolution georeferenced ortho-mosaics that are very useful in conservation planning, vegetation and threat assessment. However, the system does not perform well with automatic settings and requires a relatively large amount of time for manual image processing. This is particularly problematic in areas with extreme topographical relief. The WCS Flight Program continues to experiment with the system and has gained valuable experience during this project. The company producing EnsoMOSAIC, Savcor, continue to upgrade the software and make improvements as well. So this system has proved to be a very useful conservation and monitoring tool.

One word of caution is that it will always take more time and cost more money than planned for aerial photographic mapping. So build in an appropriate buffer at the proposal stage of any project using this system.

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

Further funding will be sought from other donors and bilateral organizations to complete the mapping work for this project.

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

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
WCS Flight Program	A	\$25,000	Extra equipment, training, staff costs, support costs and flight hours.

**\*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 EnsoMOSAIC system has proved to be an invaluable tool in conservation monitoring and planning. In addition to mapping the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests, the system has found wide application in other conservation projects throughout the region.

This project has been a very useful starting point for training in the use of the EnsoMOSAIC aerial photography system. The capacity has been established for producing relatively inexpensive digital image mosaics for conservation NGO working in Eastern and Southern Africa and Madagascar. Wider conservation applications are planned for the future and conservation partners are invited to collaborate with the WCS Flight Program where the need for this type of remote sensing data exist.

## 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:

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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