

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: CARE International

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Assessment of Baseline Ecological and Socioeconomic Factors for Forest Restoration Planning in the Bunduki Gap of the Uluguru Mountain Forests of Tanzania

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): September 3, 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Bunduki gap is a corridor area of 661 ha separating Uluguru North and Uluguru South Forest Reserves. The Uluguru Mountain forests are part of the Eastern Arc Forests, one of the 25 important global biodiversity "hotspots". It is assumed that the existence of this gap causes fragmentation of the two forest reserves with consequences on the biodiversity loss of the forest reserves and the Uluguru Mountains landscape at large.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The overall objectives was to assess the baseline ecological and socio-economic factors for forest restoration planning in the Bunduki gap in order to improve connectivity of the Uluguru North and South forest reserves and enhance biodiversity conservation.

The specific objectives were to:

- a) Assess and compare the similarity in vascular plant species composition and abundance between Bunduki gap, and the Uluguru North and South Forest Reserves
- b) Assess natural regeneration of vascular plant species in the two forests reserves and in the Bunduki gap
- c) Assess socio-economic factors that have influenced and are influencing the development of the Bunduki gap since 1950s
- d) Use the information from the ecological and socio-economic assessments to make recommendations for forest restoration planning of the Bunduki gap

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

The objectives of the Bunduki gap project remained the same throughout the implementation.

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

The success of implementing the Bunduki gap project and hence achieving the objectives was based on the following:

- the researcher received required guidance from the supervisors
- CARE International's Uluguru Mountains Environmental Management Project supported the field activities by providing transport.
- the researcher received a good cooperation from the village government leaders and the local communities of the three villages (Bunduki, Maguruwe and Vinile), where the research was conducted.
- The field activities went on smoothly without obstacles such as injuries or illness. All field team members participated as planned throughout the field work.

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 field team never experienced any serious disappointments or failures. At some point heavy rains interrupted field work but the field work was finished on schedule.

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.

Among the field activities were a series of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) sessions with the local communities in three villages. Initially the local communities demanded money from the researcher in order to participate in the sessions. Also were reluctant that the study will lead to relocating them from their farms in the Bunduki gap. However, the researcher explained the purpose of the study (without making any promise) and the benefits of the PRA sessions in enabling the communities to evaluate their natural resources. Finally the communities dropped their demand and actively participated in the PRA sessions. At the end of sessions communities commented to have understood the status of their natural resources and pointed out that the resources were being degraded. They also showed to have gained trust to the researcher. The lessons here are:

- unless local communities know that a particular study will not have a negative effect to them, will never become supportive
- to succeed in conducting research in local community areas, the communities must to some extent own the activities.
- research involving local communities such as PRA may stagnate at the start because of community financial expectations. Once its purpose is understood, implementation becomes smooth and sustainable. Also precaution need to be taken as paying communities may induce them to give information, which is not based on reality.

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

The study has outlined baseline ecological and socio-economic information useful in forest restoration planning in the Bunduki gap. The next key activity would be to develop a “Bunduki gap forest restoration plan” based on the findings of this study among other knowledge.

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

Additional information is contained in the Masters Thesis of the Bunduki gap study. Based on this MSc research a scientific paper is being compiled to suit the requirements and standards of the Journal of East African Natural History (JEANH) for publication. A full Thesis will be sent separately to CEPF and other stakeholders for wider sharing after approval by the Sokoine University Senate (most likely in this September, 2007).

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.

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.)

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I strongly recommend that CARE International's Uluguru Mountains Environmental Management and Conservation Project (UMEMCP) in coordination with the Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests (CMEAMF) project develops a "forest restoration plan for Bunduki gap" and implement it. This will enhance connectivity of the Uluguru North and Uluguru South Forest Reserves and thus conserve the biodiversity in Uluguru Mountain forests.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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