

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Trevor Jones

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Mangabey Educational Tourism Project in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania: Phase 1

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Tanzania National Parks

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** November 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** 10/07

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This project was successfully implemented, and completed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007. The project is now being taken forward by staff of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP) and the trainees who were trained during the project. T. Jones has agreed to continue on a voluntary basis as an advisor to UMNP on all aspects of the project, and to assist with regular monitoring and reviewing of the project as it moves forward.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The primary objectives of the project were as follows:

- a) A fully habituated group of Sanje mangabeys (the 'Njokamone group'), their behaviour unaffected by the presence of human observers – to serve as an effective educational tourism tool to benefit long-term conservation of the forests of the Udzungwa Mountains.
- b) Knowledgeable guides fully trained for escorting visitors to the mangabey group and back to the UMNP HQ.
- c) Responsible mangabey-viewing protocol developed and implemented.
- d) Project national and international marketing strategy developed and implemented (in conjunction with UMNP Tourism Warden).

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

It was not possible to implement the international marketing strategy during the timeframe of the project due to the absence on maternity leave of the UMNP Tourism Warden during the final months. However, a strategy was developed and implementation is planned to commence in December 2007.

A further objective was added early in the project:

e) Development of strategy for utilisation of the group for environmental education purposes among local (older) student and community groups.

All other objectives remained the same.

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

Referring to objectives listed above:

a) The Njokamone group of 57 Sanje mangabeys was successfully habituated to a degree appropriate for viewing by tourists to the UMNP.

b) 4 fieldworkers and 2 specialist knowledgeable guides fully trained and practised in effective, professional educational tourism operation. Fieldworkers are camped in Mwanihana forest within the home range of the mangabey group and follow the group constantly. The guides are based at UMNP HQ, Mang'ula, for the sake of escorting visitors to the group, and are in contact with the fieldworkers through walkie-talkie radios. Special emphasis was placed throughout the training period on the importance of protecting the mangabeys from disturbance, and strategies to ensure this protection when guiding visitors. All equipment required for the smooth running of this operation was purchased for the project (e.g. radios and rechargeable batteries, tents and other camping equipment, hand-held GPS unit). In addition, a new network of paths within the home range of the Njokamone group

c) Responsible mangabey-viewing protocol developed and formally agreed with UMNP staff and TANAPA Chief Ecologist. All activities are guided by a set of rules which are to be strictly adhered to, for the sake of the welfare of both the monkeys and the visitors (see Appendix).

d) Project national and international marketing strategy developed in conjunction with UMNP Tourism Wardens. All necessary materials (photographs, text, information, etc) provided by the grantee to UMNP Tourism Department. Independent 'Mangabey educational tourism' leaflet drafted by the grantee (see Appendix) and currently being published by TANAPA.

e) Strategy for utilisation of the group for environmental education purposes developed, and currently under discussion with local partner the Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre (UEMC), with a view to beginning a comprehensive programme in January 2008.

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.

Only the unavoidable delays to implementation of the marketing strategy due to maternity leave of UMNP Tourism Warden. But the grantee continues to work with the new Tourism Warden to meet this goal.

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.

Full collaboration with all partners from the outset of the project – i.e. from planning stage through to implementation – was vital to the success of the project. This process was facilitated by regular inclusive planning meetings.

The successful and timely habituation by the grantee and his team of a second group of Sanje mangabeys (the first having been habituated in 2002-3 for research purposes) confirmed the efficacy and appropriateness of methods adopted.

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

a) Marketing of this new attraction: draft leaflet prepared by grantee and currently being printed; ongoing collaboration on marketing planning and implementation.

b) Planning of educational mangabey-viewing programme for local groups, in collaboration with UMNP and UEMC.

c) Ongoing ecological and behavioural monitoring of mangabey group by grantee, in collaboration with UMNP Ecology Department.

d) Regular reviewing of project: performance of guides and fieldworkers; operational issues/problems; meeting of further objectives. Review meetings planned for every 3 months between UMNP staff and grantee (who will act as voluntary consultant).

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

a) The following rules were agreed between the grantee and TANAPA:

## Viewing Habituated Sanje Mangabeys in Udzungwa Mountains National Park:

### Regulations for Responsible Tourism

The following regulations are to be strictly followed by all visitors to habituated Sanje mangabeys *Cercocebus sanjei* within the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, by order of Tanzania National Parks. They have been drawn up for the purpose of ensuring the safety and welfare at all times of both the endangered Sanje mangabeys, and the people observing them. Any guest attempting to break any of these regulations will be immediately ejected from the Park, with no refund.

1. No feeding of mangabeys or any other wildlife is permitted.
2. Minimum distance of 10 metres from each observer to the nearest mangabey will be observed at all times. The mangabeys are very habituated to the presence of people, and may approach to less than 10m from a person; if this occurs, it is the responsibility of the person to move away from the mangabey until the 10m distance is restored.
3. Maximum group size of 6 observers plus 1 guide must be strictly observed. A maximum of 3 groups of observers will be permitted to view the mangabeys per day.
4. Minimum age of observer is 15 years old. All observers are advised that the terrain is demanding, and there is a possibility of encountering dangerous animals.
5. Maximum viewing time of 1 hour per group of observers.
6. No flash photography.
7. No admission to sick visitors. This is to prevent transmission of disease to the mangabeys, and includes even visitors with a common cold.
8. Behave at all times with respect for the wild animals you are observing.
  - keep noise to a minimum
  - walk slowly and quietly, making no sudden movements
  - do not walk directly towards a mangabey
  - do not hold a direct stare with a mangabey
9. All other Park regulations must be observed **while you are inside the Park.**

b) The following is draft text of a forthcoming leaflet to advertise the new attraction (photographs were also provided):

## Observing Habituated Sanje Mangabeys in the Udzungwa Mountains National Park

An Exciting New Educational Tourism Experience

**Starting from December 2007, visitors to the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP) are now able to observe at close-hand a habituated group of Sanje mangabeys, the extraordinary monkeys endemic to the Udzungwa Mountains. While walking in the beautiful mountain forests of the Park, it can be difficult to observe the extremely rich, diverse and unique fauna for which the area is famous. In particular, few visitors have ever been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Sanje mangabey, the shyest and rarest of all Udzungwa's monkeys. Following the careful habituation of a free-ranging group of over 50 mangabeys, visitors can now enjoy close-hand observations of these fascinating animals as they go about their daily lives.**

A flagship Species of the Udzungwa Mountains

**Sanje mangabeys (*Cercocebus sanjei*) are only found in the Udzungwa Mountains – in only 2 forests: Mwanihana forest inside the UMNP, and the Uzungwa Scarp, 150 km to the south. Charismatic and unique, they serve as an important representative for the many other species which are endemic to the Udzungwa Mountains, and which make these mountains such an important site in Africa for biodiversity conservation. Although undoubtedly known to local people for many centuries, the Sanje mangabey remained unknown to the wider world until 1979, and its discovery was an important factor in the gazetting of the UMNP in 1992. It is thought that the Park contains approximately half of this highly endangered species total population (of less than 2000 animals in the wild). No Sanje mangabeys are held in captivity anywhere in the world.**

**Sanje mangabeys live in social groups of between 30 and 60 animals, and are strictly diurnal. These strangely beautiful animals are incredibly graceful to watch, as they effortlessly move between every stratum of their home, from the upper canopy to the forest floor. Their diet is very diverse including fruits, seeds, flowers, leaves, fungi and even small animals such as crabs, frogs and chameleons. The luckiest visitors will see the whole group foraging on the forest floor, tearing open dead wood for insects, and digging for roots and tubers – or adults sitting around grooming each other, while the kids are playing.**

**Another fascinating aspect of their behaviour is an amazing array of vocalisations including – like all the species of mangabey across Africa – a very loud and unmistakable series of calls called a “whoop-gobble”, which is used by big adult males to advertise the group’s location to other groups.**

How To Book

**To observe the habituated group, simply make a booking at the UMNP Head Quarters in Mang’ula, and you will be escorted to see the group by specially trained guides the following morning.**

**After observing the mangabeys for one hour, you may return to HQ the same day – or you can arrange to continue on a longer-distance trek in the forest, including camping for several days, if you wish. (Ask at the Park HQ or consult the UMNP trails leaflet for further details).**

Responsible Mangabey-watching: Minimising Disturbance

**Although the mangabeys are fully habituated, it is extremely important that we make every effort to minimise disturbance to these wild animals and their daily routines. For this reason, and in the interests of visitors’ personal safety, we insist that the following rules be strictly observed when with the group.**

*Insert regulations* (see above)

How To Get There

*(Insert sketch map)*

#### 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

This is the second group of Sanje mangabeys whose habituation the grantee has successfully carried out / overseen, following the same methods of persistent, patient and quiet following of the group, from dawn until dusk every day, until the observers are accepted by the monkeys. **NO PROVISIONING OF THE STUDY ANIMALS WAS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME.** The success of these two habituations has shown, for the first time, that it is possible (with a lot of hard work) to habituate this species to human observers for research and education purposes, without the need for provisioning.

These animals have not been seen to be aggressive to observers, and once habituated, *appear* to continue their daily routines without disturbance. Nevertheless, habituation of a primate group will necessarily bring some degree of disturbance, which will not always be apparent without careful study. It is therefore vitally important with any project of this kind that a) every effort is made to minimise disturbance to the individual animals during the course of all activities subsequent to habituation; and b) careful monitoring of the ecology and behaviour of the group by experienced primate observers is implemented in the long-term, and that mechanisms are in place to ensure results of this monitoring inform adaptive management of the group for the sake of the welfare of these animals.

For any further information or advice on habituating mangabeys and other forest primates, please contact me at the email address given below.

## 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](http://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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