

**WWF TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT**  
**PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

<b>Project Title:</b>	East Usambara Forest landscape Restoration
<b>International Project Number:</b>	TZ0056.02
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July to December 2006

**Global Thematic Programme, Ecoregional Targets or Global Policy Initiatives:**

This project contributes to the East African Coastal Forests Ecoregion Programme. Under forest targets 1-3 and Milestones: 1.1 – New PA network, 1.3 – Enhance connectivity, 1.5 – Payment for Environmental Services (PES), 2.5 – Forests managed under community based forest management, 3.1 – Landscape plans with clear biodiversity and socioeconomic goals, 3.2 – Develop and pilot a tracking tool that measures FLR, and 3.3 – Multi year funding secured that demonstrates progress on FLR.

**2) Project Successes:**

- a) Management plans and by laws for Kambai, Kuzekibago and Kwezitu Village Land Forest Reserves signed/endorsed by Muheza District Council thus becoming effective as of 2006.
- b) Nine Village Land Forest Reserves<sup>1</sup> and two Community Forest Reserves<sup>2</sup> being managed by respective villages and community groups. Three Village Forest Management plans and by-laws were endorsed by the district council; five other Management plans for Mgambo, Kizerui, Shambangeda, Nkanyarika and Bomani were finalized and submitted to the District council for approval. Two other plans for Misalai and Kwatango are under development by the respective villages.
- c) The three target forest gaps between Nilo, Semdoe, Kambai, Kwamgumi and Manga Forest reserves were surveyed and the land uses analyzed. Recommendations on a restoration plan were accomplished for integration into the 2006 - 2008 Muheza District strategic plans.
- d) Reduction in use of construction wood through introduction of modern bricks houses *vis a vis* building poles in 8 villages<sup>3</sup> successfully implemented through training and support in fabrication of four brick making machines bringing the houses constructed to a total of 217. 35 fuel-efficient stoves were constructed adding to 400 fuel-efficient stoves constructed and in use to date.
- e) 80 beehives were fabrication and distribution within the community for the beekeeping project and a total of 31 fish ponds made effective as part of alternative Income Generating Activities promotion to reduce dependency on the natural forests. The multipurpose crop "*Ocimum kilimanjericum*" was also introduced and 10 pilot farmers were sent on a study tour in Kenya where the crop has been successful. 87 tree nurseries with an average of 4000 seedlings managed by schools, individuals and community groups were made operational as part of the agroforestry systems and strategy.
- f) Institutionalization of the environmental education accomplished through incorporation of Environmental Education guidelines into the existing Primary Education teaching Curriculum for 13 schools.

<sup>1</sup> Kwezitu, Kambai, Kizerui, Zirai, Misalai, Mgambo, Shambangeda, Kwatango and Kuzekibago

<sup>2</sup> Nkanyarika and Bomani

<sup>3</sup> 20 pilot houses in Kiwanda, Zirai, Kuzekibago, Kizerui, Segoma, Shambangeda, Mgambo and Misalai villages.

- g) Baseline study and fire management strategy developed strategies within the landscape was finalized.
- h) Funding for a three years second Phase (510,000 Euros) secured beginning July 2007.

### **3) Progress on Activities and related Financial Issues:**

#### **3 (a) Progress on Activities**

Through the support and facilitation of the project:

- Secured more forest areas within the village land under Village Land Forest Reserve and Community Forest Reserves. Village governments of Segoma, Misalai, Kwezitu, Kiwanda and Bosha are pioneering management of these forests following endorsement by respective village assemblies.
- Assisted in developing the management plans and by-laws for Misalai and Kwatango village forest reserves that will ensure the forests are effectively managed.
- Provided technical support to management of the existing Village Land Forest Reserves of Kizerui, Zirai, Misalai, Mgambo, Shambangeda, Kwezitu, Kambai Kwatango and Kuzekibago and the community forest reserves (Nkanyarika and Bomani) in Kiwanda village.
- Supported establishment of 87 tree nurseries (7 being school nurseries, 10 individuals and 70 groups' nurseries) with over 300,000 seedlings for the agroforestry systems in this area where integrated land use is being practiced.
- Provided training and technical support in construction of 20 brick houses (4 in Kiwanda, 2 in Zirai, 3 in Kwatango, 4 in Kuzekibago, 4 in Kizerui and 3 in Segoma villages) and also construction of 35 fuel-efficient stoves (10 Kiwanda, 8 in Kwezitu, 4 in Kwatango, 8 in Kambai and 5 in Misalai villages) to reduce the use of wood from natural forests used as poles for construction and firewood.
- Mainstreamed implementation of the environmental education through teachers training on Environmental Education guidelines and its incorporation into the existing Primary Education Curriculum where 13 schools (Misalai, Matemboni, Mgambo, Shambangeda, Zirai, Kwezitu, Kiwanda, Mangubu, Kwatango, Churwa, Segoma, Kizerui and Muze) were involved.
- Effectiveness of Local Area Conservation Network (LACN) in East Usambaras through participation in the National Annual Networks meeting that review and discuss various issues regarding sustainable conservation and management of forests in Tanzania.
- Carried out study on fire management by reviewing experiences / lessons learnt from various projects and develop / design community-based fire management programme in the East Usambaras.
- Introduced production of multipurpose crop "*Ocimum kilimanjericum*" that will serve as a new alternative Income Generation Activity where 10 pilot farmers went on a study tour in Kenya to learn about its cultivation, harvesting, extraction, uses and marketing as well as the resource governance issues and business management skills at local level.
- Finalized a submitted four management plans and by-laws for Shambangeda, Kizerui and Kiwanda villages to Muheza District Council for the district council's approval.
- Organized an awareness public meeting that tied up with the celebrations for the Mwenge event aiming at raising public awareness through experience, information and knowledge sharing towards sustainable environmental conservation and management where more than 20,000 people attended with demonstrations on tree

nurseries establishment, brick making for construction of modern houses and construction of different types of fuel-efficient stoves.

### **3 (b) Financial Issues**

During this reporting period, there were no significant deviations in budget or expenditure.

#### **4) Problems and Constraints:**

The July – September period was dry season, causing a shortage of water in some villages where tree nurseries have been established. The project therefore focused on establishing nurseries in areas where there were permanent sources of water and also advised farmers to establish smaller tree nurseries that could easily be managed with the limited water that was available. On the contrary, the heavy rains during October – December destroyed some bridges limiting access to some villages.

#### **5) Unexpected Effects:**

Implementation of forest related activities within this multifunctional landscape involving a combination of forest protection, management and restoration as part of the overall land use in the densely populated villages is a process that requires interacts between various disciplines such as biodiversity conservation, socio-economical interactions, agriculture, and the overall land use planning which is not in place. This calls for a change in implementation strategy and a lot of flexibility and adaptive management.

#### **6) Learning and Sharing:**

Achieving and sustaining FLR requires long-term commitment from the key stakeholders including establishing a citizenry that understands and cares about a health environment. Being among the global biodiversity hotspots, local actions have global implications. Developing community competencies and indigenous strengths has proved to be effective in building long term local commitments.

#### **7) Adaptive Management:**

The project has now realized the need for and already started to respond to the field experiences and consultancy reports as a basis and guide to successful agroforestry, viable income generating activities and farming systems, forest gaps connectivity strategies and habitat restoration along the multifunctional landscape and in key areas.

#### **8) Communications/Stories:**

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the project organized celebration on Mwenge event as one of the best opportunities for wider and faster public awareness rising on environmental conservation and management through field pilot centers, newspapers, television and radio. It gives a room for various participants starting from NGOs, Politicians, Religious leaders, farmers, and other government officials from different levels (regional, district, division, ward and village) to participate through information sharing based on their experience, knowledge and position all focusing on public attitudinal change towards sustainable environmental conservation and management. More than 20,000 people attended and three pilot centers were opened for more people to learn about tree nurseries establishment, brick making for constructing modern houses and constructing three different types of fuel-efficient stoves.

In trying to reduce pressure on the surrounding forests and at the same time reducing poverty especially at household level, the project is introducing production of a multiple use crop “*Ocimum kilimanjericum*” in addition to beekeeping, fish farming and butterfly farming as a new alternative Income Generation Activity in the area. To achieve this, ten pilot farmers have visited Kenya to learn more about its cultivation, harvesting, extraction, uses and marketing. Furthermore, they also learned leadership and groups’ organization both on the environment and business management skills. Among the uses identified include forage for bees and oil for making various types of medicines. Currently, the project is exploring a reliable market.

**9) Future Issues/Challenges:**

- a) Redefine the project objectives and strategies based on realistic and logical results using the “Result Chain Planning approach as is increasingly being advocated and widely adopted within WWF Network Standards.
- b) Lack of permanent sources of water in the project sites particularly in areas where tree nursery have been establishment. This hinders massive production of seedlings for restoration work.
- c) Addressing some of the direct threats to natural forest that includes fire and illegal timber and fuel wood harvesting.
- d) Poor communication systems (mainly seasonal access earth roads) has constrained the development initiatives in almost all of the project villages particularly during the rain seasons. It has become difficult for the local communities to transport their crops to market centers, and some to access social services like schools and health services. This has constrained limited access to reliable markets for most of the crops produced in those areas and this could affect some of the project initiatives in future as some households are tempted to resort to the natural forest for income when their agricultural produce can not meet their subsistence needs.
- e) Engaging private sector owners of forest land in the forest landscape restoration process as they see little economic benefits and hence their reluctance.

**10) Overall Assessment of progress:**

During this reporting period the project has performed well. Most of the planned activities were adequately implemented. The project has attained active participation from communities who have completed all the process of establishing Village Forest Reserves. The project continues to perform very well in supporting realistic Income Generating Activities to the target local communities.

Report completed by:	
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