

WWF TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1ST JULY 2005 – 30TH JUNE 2006

Project Title:	EAST USAMBARA FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION
International Project Number:	TZ0056.02
Reporting Period:	IST JULY 2005 -30 TH JUNE 2006

1) 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 – PES, 2.5 – some hectares managed under community based forest management, 3.1 – Detailed 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:

- Three forest management plans and by- laws for the proposed village forest reserves for Kambai, Kuze Kibago and Kwezitu that were approved by the Muheza District Council have now been signed by the respective village chairpersons ready awaiting for final signing by District Executive Director (DED) and District Chairperson. In addition to that, four more management plans and by-laws for Shambangeda, Kizerui and Kiwanda villages also ready for submission to Muheza District Council for approval. Two of the management plans and by- laws are for two community forest reserves in Kiwanda village.
- To enhance tree/vegetation cover in the forest gaps and in human settlements, the Project has supported agroforestry systems, establishment of 41 new tree nurseries and planting of 160,000 trees this reporting period.
- The project commissioned a study which has now been completed on analysis of potential income generating activities in the area that would be supported by the project in order to improve livelihoods of targeted communities. Also managed to increase the number of fishponds from 22 to 28 and supported money for buying and distributing fish fingerlings in all the fishponds in Kwezitu, Misalai and Mgambo villages.
- To minimize pressure on the surrounding natural forest resources, the project has managed to provide training and technical support in construction of 9 modern houses using bricks (one in Mgambo, two in Kizerui, two in Zirai one in Kwatango, one in Muze and two in Kuzekibago) and making 15 fuel-efficient stoves (5 in Kwatango, 5 in Kuzekibago, 3 in Kwezitu and 2 in Kizerui villages).
- Internal Project Review was conducted and reported in March 2006. Feedback from a donor on project progress was good and we were encouraged to apply for second phase of this project (FY07 – FY09). The proposal was completed and submitted to Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Helsinki – Finland.

3) Progress on Activities and related Financial Issues:

3 (a) Progress on activities:

- Survey and analysis of the existing forest gaps and recommendations on restoration methods within the targeted gaps in the project area have been accomplished.
- Following Teacher’s training, the project has been monitoring the progress on incorporation of the Environmental Education Training Manual into the existing Primary Education Curriculum in the four pilot primary schools, which are Segoma, Kizerui, Kuzekibago and Kambai. Observations have shown that the progress is good and there is need for extending the training into other primary schools in all villages under project.
- Conducted quarterly training of the Village Environmental Committee (VECs) of all villages in the project. Also, managed to complete preparation of four management plans of Shambangeda and

Kizerui and two community forest reserves in Kiwanda village ready for submission to the Muheza district for final approval by the full council board;

- Through consultancy, the project supported and developed the report on land use plans for the selected villages now ready for implementation based on the key recommendations and also to be incorporated into the Muheza District strategic development plans for 2006/2007. The action plan now is to review the report and extract some of the recommended forest restoration methods in the forest gaps for filed implementation;
- Agreed during Project Steering Committee meeting that, while working on how best we could harmonize the existing JFM agreements in the project sites in order to provide more tangible benefits to adjacent local people, it is important to continue working on the possibility of introducing the idea of Payment for the Environmental Services (PES) through Water and Electrical companies in Tanzania as an opportunity for improving the existing JFM agreements;
- Managed to plant more than 160,000 trees including agroforestry tree species. We have also managed to establish 41 new groups, schools and individual tree nurseries in the area;
- The project managed to organize and support a study on the assessment of economic benefits of village forest reserves to local communities and how could those benefits be improved. Also in identification of potential economic activities (IGAs), which the project could support, that would improve people's livelihoods;
- The project has trained farmers to make and use fuel-efficient stoves and also building modern houses using bricks. A total of 9 houses and 15 fuel-efficient stoves were constructed in this quarter;
- The project has managed to monitor Implementation of the Environmental Education to the four pilot primary schools (Segoma, Kizerui, Kuzekibago and Kambai). Where observations have shown good progress and need for further extension to all primary schools in the project. The project has also managed to organize and support celebrations for the World Environmental Day (WED) aiming at raising public awareness through experience, information and knowledge sharing that encourages attitude change towards sustainable environmental conservation and management not only in the project areas but also in Tanzania at large;
- The project managed to organize and support community conservation network meetings for each of the available 8 Local Area Conservation Network (LACN) in the East Usambaras to discuss issues regarding to sustainable conservation and management of forests in East Usambaras.
- Organized and supported the third Project Steering Committee meeting to discuss issues regarding progress of project implementation. Project updates, challenges, lessons learnt were discussed and eventually planned for way forward;
- The project has been able to monitor the project implementation progress as per schedule through regular reports production and circulation. An internal project evaluation was also conducted involving the project coordinator, WWF Finland staff, technical adviser and other key staff from WWF TPO and TFCG offices. Lessons have been incorporated into our next project plan and phase II project proposal.

3(b) Deviations in budget or expenditure: During this reporting period, there were no significant deviations in budget or expenditure. A significant carry forward was registered on WWF-TPO component due to the fact that part of the year, The Project Coordinator was ill and could not perform some of his responsibilities and hence some of the activities for FY06 have been carried forward to FY07.

4) Problems and Constraints: Lack of permanent sources of water to some of the villages, smaller farm plots to some of the farmers and schools and slow adoption rates of some of the technologies have been the main constraints in organizing and establishing groups, individuals and school nurseries and advocating sustainable environmental conservation. The project decided to concentrate nursery establishment in the area where there is permanent source of water for easy management. In addition, the project advised farmers in those areas to establish smaller tree nurseries that could easily be managed even by fetching water from the distance water sources.

Delayed signing of Village Forest Reserve's management plans and by-laws by the District Council slowed down the process of finalizing the Forest Reserves. The project plans to speed up the process faster during the next year by holding special signing ceremony for the management plans and by-laws.

5) Unexpected Effects: Insufficient tangible benefits from Joint Forest Management agreements to local communities was significant disincentives to attracting local communities to join the JFM scheme as a result many preferred the Community Based Forest Management arrangement where fully ownership and benefits were assured. Unless payment for environmental services are sought to plough back costs for managing the catchment forests, or the government considers some ways to motivate the local communities through policy change, JFM remains unattractive management approach.

6) Learning and Sharing: Insufficient tangible benefits from Joint Forest Management agreements to local communities was significant disincentives to attracting local communities to join the JFM scheme as a result many preferred the Community Based Forest Management arrangement where fully ownership and benefits were assured. Unless payment for environmental services are sought to plough back costs for managing the catchment forests, or the government considers some ways to motivate the local communities through policy change, JFM remains unattractive management approach.

High levels of poverty in the East Usambara Mountains combined with a shortage of good agricultural land and a growing human population means that FLR initiatives must provide tangible benefits to the communities if they are to be adopted and sustained.

Achieving FLR requires a long term commitment from stakeholders including communities, government and civil society organizations. This also requires that the costs to stakeholders of activities such as forest management are properly covered

7) Adaptive Management: Based on field experiences and stakeholder analysis, the project realized that private land owners such as Tea Estates and Magrotto estates are not interests in setting aside their land to be designated as Private Land Forest Reserves; instead they want to be engaged in ecotourism and tree planting for alternative energy. The project intends to respond to recommended forest restoration methods in each of the forest gaps analyzed and will thus do away with trial and error restoration methods that were used in the past.

8) Communications/Stories: On 5th June 2006, the project organized celebration on World Environmental Day which was very successful. Celebration of the World Environmental Day (WED) is one of the best opportunities for wider and faster public awareness rising on environmental conservation and management. 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. This is a golden opportunity that project must strive not to miss during all its operation.

9) Future Issues/Challenges:

- To scale up the project activities involving other areas, also addressing some of the direct threats to natural forest including fire and cutting for fuel wood.
- To improve financial incentives for communities to be able to engage in FLR activities.
- To build the capacity of communities and local government to engage in FLR activities
- To engage 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 proposed project activities were adequately achieved. The project has especially attained active participation from communities who have completed all the necessary steps at village level for establishing Village Forest Reserves.

PART 2: MONITORING REPORT

Project Title:	East Usambara Forest Landscape Restoration
International Project Number:	TZ0056.02
Reporting Period:	July 2005 – June 2006

Targets	Indicators	Baseline	Current status	Success rating (green, amber or red)	Indicate what global target and milestone this relates to.
Goal level					
Objective 1 New village Forest Reserves are established and assistance is provided to the management of existing VFRs through CBFM agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three new VFRs gazetted at Shambangeda, Kizerui and Kiwanda/Kwetango, complete with management plans and by-laws. ▪ Additional sites with potential for being village forest reserves identified. ▪ Three proposed VFRs (Kambai, Kwezitu and Kuze Kibago) are managed sustainably and registration completed. ▪ Number of villages cooperating with the project increase from 6 to 15 ▪ Incidence of uncontrolled fire reduced in target lowland villages. 	There were 6 draft management plans and by-laws not approved for Mgambo, Zirai, Misozwe, Mwarimba, Vuga and Hensambia.	Development of 10 new management plans and by laws for new village forest reserves started. Started. 3 mgt plans and by-laws for Kambai, Kwezitu and Kuze Kibago already approved by District council waiting for final signing, and the other six, 2 being community forest reserves are still under development.	Green	Target 2, milestone 2.5
Objective 2: Village land use plans developed for selected villages and integrated with 2003 - 2005 and for 2006 - 2008 Muheza District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Village land use plans produced for selected villages in key gaps between forest reserves (e.g. Kizerui and Kiwanda/Kwetango) ▪ Evidence of endorsement of land use plans at village, ward and divisional levels 	NIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Village land use plans produced for selected villages (Kizerui, Segoma and Kuzekibago) in key gaps between forest reserves. We are now planning to start incorporating the key recommendations based on the 	Green	Target 3, milestone 3.1

Targets	Indicators	Baseline	Current status	Success rating (green, amber or red)	Indicate what global target and milestone this relates to.
strategic plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations of village land use plans incorporated within Muheza District strategic plan for 2006 – 2008 		consultant report starting from next quarter. Also incorporate the recommendations of village land use plans within the Muheza District strategic plan for 2006 – 2008		
Objective 3: Forest habitats restored in key areas to enhance forest connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree cover within gaps between forest reserves increased ▪ Number and area of village forest reserves in gap areas increased ▪ Number and area of village woodlots increases ▪ Area of gap between Nilo and Semdoe FR declines. ▪ Area of gap between Semdoe and Segoma declines ▪ - Area of gap between Segoma and Manga declines 	No baseline information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 160,000 tree species has been planted ▪ 9 more village forest reserves have been established ▪ Number and area of village woodlots has increased 	Green	Target 1, milestone 1.3 and target 3, milestone 3.1 and 3.3
Objective 4: Private sector make commitments to maintain and conserve existing forests e.g. through creation of private reserves, or co-management agreements in collaboration with TFCG and/or local VECs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of forest on private estates does not decline ▪ Quality of forest in specified areas does not decline ▪ Agreements with tea companies and Magrotto oil palm estate to maintain forest cover obtained ▪ At least one private reserve created in region. ▪ Proposed catchment forest reserve extensions on Kwantili estate and SHUWIMU forest land are formally gazetted. 		Discussions are still going on, on the need for agreements with tea companies and Magrotto oil palm estate, Kwantili Estate to maintain forest cover.	Amber	Target 3, milestone 3.4
Objective 5: Catchment Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lessons learnt from work with JFM agreements to date in the 		Lessons learnt have shown that there are no tangible benefits to	Amber	Target 2, milestone 2.5

Targets	Indicators	Baseline	Current status	Success rating (green, amber or red)	Indicate what global target and milestone this relates to.
Reserves (CFRs): Analyse experience with existing JFM agreements and review options for further JFM agreements in other CFRs	<p>East Usambaras documented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategy developed for expansion of area under JFM based on lessons learnt. 		the communities under the existing JFM agreements. Therefore there is need for harmonizing the existing JFM agreements and also introducing Payment for the environmental services		
Objective 6: Livelihoods improved through development of income generating and other activities which reduce pressure on surrounding natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing sustainable economic activities are continued and benefits to participating households are maintained ▪ New sustainable livelihood activities in place ▪ Number of people involved in (new) sustainable livelihood activities increased ▪ Proportion of households with increasing income in participating villages ▪ Hours spent per day/week collecting fuelwood by women and children in rural areas; ▪ Percentage of common property land available to women for collecting fuelwood and non-timber products; ▪ Hours spent per day collecting water by women and children (noting seasonal variations); ▪ Number or proportion of children receiving primary school education; ▪ Proportion of the poor with secure use rights to land for 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed to maintain the existing IGAs (fish farming, butterfly farming, Allanblackia nuts collection, beekeeping) • Study has been conducted and recommends new IGAs to be supported by the project. • Use of fuel-efficient stoves and construction of brick houses significantly contributes towards reducing pressure on forest reserves • New more IGAs to be started next quarter. 	Green	Target 3, milestone 3.1 and 3.2

Targets	Indicators	Baseline	Current status	Success rating (green, amber or red)	Indicate what global target and milestone this relates to.
	farming; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of poor farmers with access to x hectares to grow food for household consumption; ▪ Proportion of women receiving income from Income Generating activities; ▪ Attendance/role of women in Village Environmental Committees 				
Objective 7: Awareness of the importance of forests and appropriate land management enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of articles in technical magazines and newspapers, and number of radio broadcasts increased ▪ Attitude and knowledge of villagers in target villages increased over non-target villages ▪ Number of supporting decisions made at the District Council level increased ▪ Number of supporting decisions made at the village management committee level increased 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Radio broadcasting is done in every Friday ▪ More people are participating into project activities as revealed by increased number of village forest reserves, VECs, Tree nurseries. ▪ Increased number of articles in technical magazines and newspapers 	Green	EE: Cross-cutting
Objective 8: Concerted efforts are made towards having systems in place to support the continuation of activities initiated during the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity of District of Muheza District Natural Resource Office enhanced ▪ Increased number of visits to target villages ▪ Proposals for further fundraising produced ▪ Plans for a second phase developed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two staff from the district Natural Resource Office have been trained one in Beekeeping and moth farming and the other one on PFM ▪ Already a second phase for the project has been developed. 	Green	Capacity building: Cross-cutting

Targets	Indicators	Baseline	Current status	Success rating (green, amber or red)	Indicate what global target and milestone this relates to.
Objective 9: Project implementation is monitored and evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project evaluation. ▪ Monthly, Quarterly and Annual reports submitted. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mid term project evaluation done. ▪ Monthly, Quarterly and Annual reports have been submitted as per schedule. 	Green	

Risks	During this reporting period, there were no significant risks to the project noted.
Assumptions	Project assumptions identified at planning stage remain the same and with no negative impact to the project progress.

Report completed by:	
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Position/ Title	Forest Programmes Officer & EU FLR Project Coordinator
Organisation	WWF Tanzania Programme Office
Date	15 th July 2006