



WWF for a living planet®

WWF TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Project Title:	EAST USAMBARA FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT
International Project Number:	TZ005602
Reporting Period:	JULY – DECEMBER 2005

1. Global Thematic Programme, Ecoregional Targets or Global Policy Initiatives:

The project contributes to the Forest Targets 1 and 2 and Milestone 1.1 and 2.5 respectively.

2. Project Successes:

- Finalised expansion of the Kambai their village forest reserve in collaboration with the Village Government and VEC to connect the village forest reserve with the Kambai National Forest Reserve.
- By-laws and management plans for Kambai, Kuze Kibago and Kwezitu Villages were reviewed and approved by the Muheza District Council.
- 15 group tree nurseries were established and farm contour bunds initiated in five farms in Segoma village, three farms in Matemboni, four plots in Kizerui and five farms in Churwa villages. This was a result of the agroforestry training undertaken in July-September to the seven villages i.e. Kizerui, Boshu, Muzi, Matemboni, Churwa, Segoma and Kuzekibago.

3. Progress on Activities and related financial issues

3a. Progress on Activities

New village forest reserves (VFRs) are established and assistance is provided to the management of existing VFRs through CBFM: Having established the Village Environmental Committee for the Segoma village, the project ran a series of training sessions on agroforestry and on-farm tree planting. The training sessions targeted individual farmers, groups and primary schools and enabled the trainees to establish tree nurseries as a way of reducing their dependence on forest products.

The project organized and conducted training to the Village Environmental Committee of Misalai village on by laws and Management Plan development of their Forest Reserve. The aim of the training was to increase their capacity to prepare their own management plan and by laws that would guide sustainable management and conservation of their village forest reserve. This five day training involved fifteen committee members (8 men and 7 women). The project facilitated the Kambai Village Government and VEC to in finalising expansion of their village forest reserve by three hectares so as to connect their village forest reserve with the Kambai National Forest Reserve. Activities involved undertaking participatory re-demarcating of boundaries and constructing fire control lines.

Facilitating establishment of tree nurseries and on-farm tree planting projects in additional villages (including woodlots) with particular emphasis on Kizerui, Kuze Kibago and Segoma: The agroforestry training was undertaken in July-September to the seven villages i.e. Kizerui, Boshu, Muzi, Matemboni, Churwa, Segoma and Kuzekibago. Villages were mobilised and supported to establish and manage groups/individuals agroforestry tree nurseries. 15 group tree nurseries were established. Contour bunds were initiated in five farms in Segoma village, three farms in Matemboni, four plots in Kizerui and five farms in Churwa villages.

16 other groups, individuals and school nurseries are under different stages of establishment to raise enough tree seedlings for on-farm planting and for village forest reserves restoration as gap filling and forest boundary demarcation. Cumulatively, a total of 75 small size tree nurseries have been established of which 51 are managed by groups while 24 are managed by individuals.

Livelihoods improved through development of income generating and other activities, which reduce pressure on surrounding natural resources: The project identified improved honey production and silk moth farming as economic activities involving the sustainable utilisation of forest goods and services. In collaboration with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, the project staff arranged for twenty farmers (12 men and 8 women of which 10 were financed by the project and 10 by ICIPE) from 11 of the project villages to attend a two week training course on honey production and silk moth farming. The honey production training covered improved bee keeping and honey processing techniques while the silk moth farming training covered silk production and weaving. The training also aimed at improving farmers' understanding of the link between conservation activities and development. Ten farmers were trained on beekeeping and the other ten on silk moth farming. On their return to their villagers the trainees have committed to share what they have learnt with others. Our goal is to influence as many farmers as possible to join the project in very near future in order to improve their income while sustainably conserving and managing the forests.

Develop and support strategies that mitigate threats to these benefits (such as fuel-efficient stoves), while building on opportunities: The project trained farmers on the production and use fuel-efficient stoves and also building of modern houses using compressed mud bricks. Six houses; three in Kizerui, two in Kuzekibago and one in Matemboni villages were constructed. Also 15 fuel-efficient stoves were constructed; 4 in Kizerui, 3 in Misalai, 4 in Kizerui, 3 in Segoma and 1 in Zirai villages. These activities aim to reduce pressure on the natural forest by reducing the consumption of indigenous trees in building and cooking.

Environmental education is undertaken in schools, and through environment days, competitions, greening programmes: The facilitated environmental education and training to primary schools pupils (average of 60 pupils per school) with the main focus on tree nursery establishment and management. Twelve Schools (Mgambo, Misalai, Zirai, Kizerui, Kwezitu, Matemboni, Kambai, Bosha, Kiwanda, Mangugu, Kuzekibago and Kwetango) have been trained on tree nurseries management and s planting. Every school is having one tree nursery.

Exchange experiences with others engaged with community forestry work in Tanzania e.g. through the TFCG community forest conservation network.

Sixteen people from the six Local Area Conservation Networks in East Usambaras and the project staff attended the National Annual Conservation Network Meeting/ Workshop held in Morogoro between 5th and 7th of December 2005. Several issues were addressed including discussions and approval of the LACN constitution. Election of new leaders for the local area conservation network (LACN). Also discussed various policies (Minerals and Energy, Wildlife, Water, Forestry and Finance policies) with the aim of identifying conflicts and their harmonization to favor sustainable environmental conservation and management.

Identify strategic areas to enhance overall forest connectivity using the reports from the remote sensing, GIS and gap mapping consultancies and Update the existing GIS database for the area and commission additional GIS layers to ensure that we have layers on village forest reserve boundaries, village boundaries, human population densities within villages, ward and division boundaries, location and extent of tea, oil palm and sisal estates

The study was commissioned to Mlingano Agricultural Research Centre in September 2005. The draft report and maps were produced in November 2005. The report was reviewed and comments made on the necessary improvements. The final report is expected in Q3. The socio-economic survey will be undertaken as part of the ongoing study within the Derema corridor by the University of Dar es Salaam.

3b. Financial issues

There were some budget readjustments to incorporate the carry-forward funding from FY05 particularly on the consultancies and studies. There were also some budget increases to support field activities particularly the income generation activities.

4. Problems and Constraints

- The project is also planning to introduce the technology of fuel-efficient stoves and building houses using compressed mud bricks. Failure of the previous Segoma village assembly meeting to set aside an area for their village forest reserve has been one of the main bottlenecks in this quarter. However, we hope to reach consensus about this in the coming village assembly meetings.
- The electoral campaigns that took place during November and December 2005 constrained signing of the Management plan (s) and by laws of by the District Executive Director and District Council Chairman. This also delayed the signing of the management Plans and by-laws of Shambangeda and Kizerui villages by the respective Ward Executive Officers before being submitted to the district for final approval. These offices were mainly busy with the election campaigns and for this reason none of the documents were signed. The project will make follow up in the next quarter.
- Lack of permanent sources of water to some of the project areas in lowlands thus constraining smooth run of the project activities related to tree nurseries establishment.

5. Unexpected effects

There was an overwhelming demand for village nursery development and also the establishment of community income generation activities following the training and excursions held for community groups and individual farmers. The project will capitalize on this enthusiasm to ensure the necessary capacity is built and management support from the project remains minimal for a sustained management.

6. Learning and Sharing

From the successes learned from International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the project will communicate and share the successes through different fora and the media. The excursion demonstrated that the Muheza district has a lot of environmentally sound opportunities for income generation, only that the communities are yet to be facilitated and supported to tap these opportunities such as honey production and silk moth farming.

7. Adaptive Management.

There were no major changes in the project objectives, strategies and activities.

8. Communications/ Stories.

None

9. Future Issues/ Challenges.

The long absence of TPO Forest officer to facilitate respective project activities delayed some critical assignments mainly the land use studies and socio-economic studies which are critical for other field activities. The Conservation Director and Forest Field officers continued to backstop these activities. It is hoped that the Forest officer will resume duty in the second half of this Financial Year.

10. Overall Assessment of progress.

On the overall, the project realised about 70% of the planned activities for the period.