

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** The Amani Butterfly Project

**Implementation Partners for This Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** November 1, 2005 – October 31, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Amani Butterfly Project requested US\$ 9,880 from CEPF as supplemental funding to aid in expanding the number of villages and farmers in the project, expanding the size of the project office and defers some project costs during the expansion period. Other project funding came from McKnight Foundation.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?
  - To improve the livelihoods of women and men in remote rural communities.
  - To create a sustainable butterfly cooperative as a model for future projects in Africa.
  - To promote the conservation of a biodiversity “hotspot”.
2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.
  - No changes have been made to the project objectives.
3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

### **Livelihoods Improvement.**

Earnings from pupae exports have increased each year from \$20,000 USD in 2004 to \$45,000 in 2005, to over \$55,000 USD in 2006. Within 3 years the project expects to earn around \$100,000 USD a year. The project pays the 390 participating butterfly farming households at the end of each month for the pupae they sell through the project. Prices are set by an elected committee of butterfly farmers with advice from the project’s manager. At least 65% of total project earnings go directly to farmers as pupae

payments. An additional 7% of earnings go into a community development fund shared by the four villages involved in the project. Income surveys conducted prior to the start of the project revealed that the average household cash income in the project area was about \$350 a year. Due to small time requirements, it is estimated that butterfly farming has increased the average farming household's yearly income by 15 to 25%. Finally, the project has community wide benefits through the community development fund. Again, the elected committee of butterfly farmers makes disbursement decisions. So far, the fund has been used to construct school buildings and to purchase land for a village forest reserve.

### **Biodiversity Impacts**

Although butterfly farmers are not directly exploiting forest resources, there is a strong relationship between butterfly farming and forest conservation. Even though the project has only been in operation for 3 years, it is clear that butterfly farmers recognize this relationship. For instance, 83% of butterfly farmers surveyed in the summer of 2006 said it would be impossible for them to continue farming butterflies if the forests were lost. On the same survey, butterfly farmers were significantly more likely than non-butterfly farmers to report participating in environmentally responsible behaviors like tree planting, participating in village environmental meetings, and discouraging illegal cutting. The project staff has encouraged all of these behaviors during training and project meetings as ways to help preserve butterfly habitat and host plants. Furthermore, funds from the project's community development fund have been used to purchase private forested land for a village forest reserve. Finally, butterfly farmers in another village are the primary force behind a drive for extending that village's existing forest reserve to include most of the remaining forested village land.

### **Sustainability**

The 28% of project earnings allotted for running the project are now sufficient to cover all running costs of the project and to save for the replacement costs of project equipment. Eventually the project expects to earn up to \$100,000 per year and more than 400 farmers.

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.

There were no major disappointments experienced during the implementation. However there was minor failure as only 50% of Installation of security fence has been completed due to high expenses of materials compared to planned budget. We have asked CEPF to allow the balance from the project to be used to accomplish the fence and we are still waiting for their approval. Once finished the fence will provide security to the project properties and also show the clear boundary of the office plot.

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.

- Adding a meeting room has been very useful especially for committee members as they used to meet in primary school class rooms. The room will not only be used for meeting but also training, workshop and information center.

- Experience shows that there is high market demand of papilio butterfly due to the fact that they are attractive and stay longer in shipping process. The project has been encouraging the new farmers to focus on Papilio species so as to meet the demand.
- Short course training has been useful to the community liaison officer and the in job training to the project manager as they can now work with little assistant from the Project Technical Advisor.
- Middlemen buyers can be beneficial to the project. Originally, the project focused on shipping directly to live butterfly exhibits because the project produced enough variety of species to do so, however, the biggest gains in market this year have been sales to two middlemen. Middlemen buyers require additional discounts, but can double weekly sales.
- The butterfly exhibit lost the Franklin Park Conservatory as a customer this year. Some customers are temporary and like to change the species they exhibit. These changes are predictable, but require that project staff ask customer's about their future plans.

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

The project is now covering all running costs after expansion period from 28% of sales. The project will mainly work to expand the market so as to attract more buyers. We are also planning to promote local butterfly exhibitor in Amani so as to attract school children, Tanzanians and tourists to visit the site.

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

The Amani Project was created through extensive consultation with the District of Muheza, the governments of villages in the project, local community members, local forest officers and the Forestry and Beekeeping Division. The Amani Butterfly Project Group, representing the 390 farmers involved in the project holds a Class 17 and a Class 18 Trophy Dealer License from the Wildlife Division.

#### 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)

McKnight Foundation has been supporting this project for last two years and its funding ends in August 2007 (it is a three year project). The project will now run from the 28% sales from the pupae. TFCG will continue working in the site and at the same time conduct monitoring and draw lessons from the initiatives.

- 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

It is possible to replicate or scale up this model to other sites, however the limited market of butterfly pupae creates a bottle neck for the expansion of this initiative.

## 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.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Charles Meshack  
Organization name: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group  
Mailing address: P.O Box 23410  
Tel: +255 (0) 22 2669007  
Fax: +255 (0) 22 2669007  
E-mail: [cmeshack@tfcg.or.tz](mailto:cmeshack@tfcg.or.tz)