



WWF Project Technical Progress Report

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Project No/Activity No | TZ 0853(WWF-TPO) or 623-A-00-98-00064-00 (USAID) |
| Project Title | WWF Tarangire National Park Project |
| Project life span | 30 th September, 1998 – August 31 st , 2003 |
| Reporting Period | January-June, 2003 |

1. Introduction

Tarangire National Park (TNP) is situated in northern Tanzania and covers an area of more than 2,600 square kilometers. It is home to one of the largest elephant populations in East Africa. The park is also rich in other mammals, many of which move out of the park during the rainy season. The Tarangire River flows through the entire park, and with its associated wetlands, provides a year round source of fresh water. TNP serves as a critical dry season (July – December) refuge for wildlife in the 20,000 square kilometer Maasai Steppes.

Though the park's importance is unquestioned, it has been faced with several constraints that have hindered the development of a comprehensive management strategy. TNP managers have come to understand that they urgently need reliable information concerning the natural resources base, patterns of human and wildlife utilization of the resources and the extent of pressures on the wetlands.

This project aims to address the above constraints and to help TNP and TANAPA integrate existing and new information into the management decision making process. The main focus of this project however is conservation of the Tarangire River wetlands. Also included is capacity building in ecological monitoring, vegetation and participatory land use mapping, and large mammal surveys in the whole Tarangire ecosystem.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to sustainably conserve the Tarangire wetland system. The aim is to achieve this through increased capacity in ecological monitoring including establishment of a GIS center at TNP for the production of ecological information that will be integrated into park management decisions. The aim is also to establish a desk top publishing unit at TANAPA headquarters for the production of information materials like newsletters, brochures, guide books maps, and post cards on Tarangire and Lake Manyara NP.

This project aims to achieve the following:

- Tarangire/Lake Manyara wetlands sustainably conserved
- Increased knowledge of population dynamics of large mammals in the ecosystem.
- Migratory routes and dispersal areas of elephants and other large mammals in the Tarangire Ecosystem described and mapped.
- Vegetation and land – use pattern of the Tarangire ecosystem mapped.
- GIS center established; relevant TANAPA staff trained and capable of gathering, storing, retrieving, analyzing and interpreting ecological data which in-turn could be used for enhancing the park's conservation and management.
- Capacity for desktop publishing at TANAPA headquarters established.
- Two postgraduate students trained; dissertations on Wildlife ecology and Land-use produced at MSc level.
- Overall management of Tarangire National Park and its natural resources improved.

3. Progress

1. Sustainable conservation of Tarangire River and its associated wetlands

Selected local NGOs and Institutions are carrying out activities for this objective in collaboration with WWF. The selected local NGOs include Mazingira Bora Karatu, and FIDE. The local institutions are Monduli Development Council (MDC), Kondo District Council, Karatu District Council, Mbulu District Council and TANAPA's Ecological monitoring department.

The following activities were implemented under this objective during the six-month period:

- ◆ Rehabilitation of eroded catchment slopes of Lake Babati by FIDE and Lake Manyara by Mbulu district council and Mazingira Bora Karatu continued. A total of 165,000 tree seedlings were transplanted on the degraded areas on the slopes of Lakes Babati and Manyara;
- ◆ Mazingira Bora Karatu(MBK) organised seminars for villagers of Kilimatambo, Tloma and Rhotia Villages on conservation awareness and formulation of conservation bylaws;
- ◆ TANAPA's ecological monitoring unit continued carrying out monitoring of water quality within the Tarangire/Lake Manyara catchment basin. Data was collected and

analysed. A scientific report was produced and submitted to an international scientific Journal for publication;

- ◆ Kondoia and Mbulu District Councils conducted community awareness creation meetings and facilitated communities to demarcate areas for *in-situ* conservation;
- ◆ Mbulu and Kondoia District Councils facilitated formulation of community-based Environmental conservation bylaws.

2. Vegetation and Participatory land-use mapping

The following activities have been carried out under this objective:

- ◆ Preparation of participatory land use maps continued in selected villages of Monduli and Kondoia District Councils;
- ◆ Environmental conservation bylaws were developed in selected villages of Monduli, Mbulu and Kondoia Districts;
- ◆ Kondoia Councils facilitated resolution of boundary conflict between neighbouring villages of Kiteto and Kondoia Districts.

3. Ecological Monitoring

The following activities are either currently under implementation or are planned to be carried out under this objective:

- ◆ A draft guidebook on Birds, reptiles & amphibians has been produced. Copies of the same have been submitted to Tanzania National Parks and Tarangire National Parks and other key stakeholders within the Tarangire Ecosystem for comments prior to producing the final version for printing.
- ◆ A guidebook on Butterflies of Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks has been produced.
- ◆ Training of a graduate student in wildlife ecology (Ms Fortunata Msofe) was completed.
- ◆ An intensive training for three TANAPA staff on GIS was done during the reporting period. The trainees have started producing user-friendly information that is being integrated in Park's management. The Institute of Resource Assessment of the University of Dar es Salaam facilitated the training.

4. Establish and train Desktop Publishing Unit at TANAPA headquarters

- ◆ Training of three selected TANAPA staff on Desk Top Publishing was completed during the reporting period. The trainees have acquired substantial skills and have started to produce leaflets for selected parks.

5. Others: Capacity building of implementing partners

Tailor-made capacity building support was provided to WWF-partner organisations that participate in the implementation of the Tarangire Project. FIDE and MBK underwent Participatory Organisational Capacity Assessment and prepared strategic plans. Six staff from Mbulu District Council, Mazingira Bora Karatu and FIDE attended a two-week training on micro-computer applications and each of these partner organisations were

provided with a desk-top computer and printer.

Two people from Kondoa District Council and FIDE attended a two-week training on Integrated Conservation and Development Programs in Arusha. The institutional Capacity Building initiative followed the recommendation from the mid-term evaluation of the project that was conducted last year.

4. Outputs this reporting period

The following Reports and Minutes have been produced during the reporting period:

- A guidebook on butterflies of Tarangire and Lake Manyara Ecosystem was produced;
- A draft plant guidebook for TNP was produced;
- A draft guidebook on reptiles, amphibians and birds of TNP was produced;
- Topographic and tourism circuit maps have been produced by the GIS centre;
- A scientific report on water quality along Tarangire River was produced.

5. Targets attained and important development during the reporting period

- A database on tourism and poaching activities for TNP was developed;
- The Institute of Resource Assessment provided intensive GIS training for 3 TNP Staff;
- Data entry at the GIS Centre continued;
- 165,000 tree seedlings were planted on the degraded slopes of Lakes Babati and Lake Manyara;
- Organisational capacity assessment for FIDE and MBK was conducted;
- An image bank for TANAPA tourism promotion was established;
- Preparation of participatory land use plans for three villages of Monduli District was completed and approved by the District Council. The exercise is still going on in selected villages of Kondoa District.
- Ms Fortunata Msoffe completed her MSc in Wildlife Ecology.

6. Target not attained during reporting period

- Establishment and operationalisation of a Desk Top Publishing Unit at Tanzania National Park Headquarters, which is behind schedule;
- Rehabilitation of the office premises for Mbulu District Wildlife Department and for Mazingira Bora Karatu;
- Production of final versions of guidebooks on birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants of Tarangire National Park.

7. Action(s) taken to overcome constraints and obstacles

- Close follow-up with the grantees was ensured;

8. Prospects for the accomplishment of the project's objectives

Implementation of project activities is going well. Therefore, prospects for accomplishing all the project objectives are good.

9. Lesson learned during the period under review

Participatory Organisational Capacity Assessment is not only empowering the stakeholders of an organisation but also key to practical and strategic capacity strengthening for improved performance and institutional sustainability.

10. Planned targets and activities for the remaining two months of the project

- Produce final version of plant guidebook for Tarangire National Park;
- Facilitate establishment of desktop publishing unit at TANAPA headquarters;
- Continue with data collection for water quality analysis of Tarangire River and related wetlands of Tarangire National Park;
- Continue with training of relevant TNP staff on GIS at Tarangire National Park;
- preparation of participatory land use maps in selected villages of Pahi Ward in Kondo District, as well as in five selected villages of Monduli Districts bordering Tarangire National park;
- Hand over the project to TANAPA and to Tarangire National Park respectively.

11. Other comments

None

12. Acronyms

| | |
|-------------|---|
| AOP | Annual Operation Plan (Plan showing activities of all partners) |
| AWF | African Wildlife Foundation |
| CA | Co-operation Agreement |
| DOI | Department of Interior (USA) |
| FIDE | Friends In Development |
| GIS | Geographical Information system |
| LMNP | Lake Manyara National Park |
| MBK | Mazingira Bora Karatu |
| NHT | National Herbarium of Tanzania |
| SRF | Systematic reconnaissance Flight |
| TANAPA | Tanzania National Parks |
| TCP (OIKOS) | Tarangire Conservation Programme |
| TNP | Tarangire National Park |
| TPO | Tanzania Programme Office (WWF) |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WWF | World wildlife Fund |

Acknowledgements

The project executant would like to thank Dr. Herman Mwageni and Kijja, the project Administrative Assistant for their help and advice. He would also like to thank Martin Loibooki, the Park Warden in-charge of TNP for help and support during the implementation of this project.