

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/11/004
Project Title	Conserving Kenya's indigenous forests through certification of sustainably sourced woodcarvings.
Country(ies)	Kenya
UK Organisation	WWF-UK
Collaborator(s)	WWF-EARPO, KGT, KWETU, KEFRI, Oxfam
Report date	31.10.2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	-

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

a. Farmers: After first generation training, which was completed in Malindi and Kilifi Districts on time, many farmers organised themselves quickly and spontaneously in farmers groups and together formed the Coastal Farm Forest Association (CFFA) in July 2004. So far, 25 farmer groups with 20-75 members each have been formed. The first generation training for farmers was only recently completed (early October 2004) in Kwale District. Second generation training has faced a considerable delay and has not yet been completed (see below). The resource survey could not be completed until September 2004, which delayed the finalisation of the management plan (finalisation due for the end of October 2004).

b. Carvers: Central log purchasing by the cooperative society started in Akamba in September 2004. A separate log-yard for 'Good Woods' resources (including a shed for storage) was prepared close to the entrance to the cooperative and can now be used. The kiln construction was considerably delayed but was finished in mid-October 2004. Hand-over is planned at the end of October.

c. Retailers / importers: An international buyers meeting in Mombasa was held by KGT late July. One buyer (Besmo from the UK) selected 23 (20 from Akamba) of the 56 products displayed. This is particularly important as the buyer placed its order and will get the products delivered at a time when products / resources are not yet certified. In addition, a local buyers trade exhibition was organised in late August 2004 (joint venture by WWF, KGT, DANIDA-MEDP and Oxfam). The exhibition was a success from the commercial point of view and received high political attention, with the Kenyan Minister for Tourism and Wildlife and the Assistant Minister for Trade being present.

d. Certification: As planned, a test certification run was carried out by all project partners in late August / early September 2004. Together with the project coordinator and the resource manager, the project leader identified the main gaps in the resource and production chain against Woodmark's scoping report from early 2004 and against FSC principles and standards. A list of 66 to-do-items was compiled by the project coordinator and is currently being worked through.

e. Administration and coordination: Advisory and operational meetings were held as planned,

including an additional operational meeting in May, as many crucial issues had to be discussed and decided. Reporting time-lines were kept as specified in the annual work-plan. The resource manager completed his training course in Sweden in May 2004 as planned.

Summary: During the reporting period, the project has made considerable progress towards certification; the most important mechanisms and structures have been put in place. On the other hand, the completion of several important activities (e.g. CTP and CFFA registration, second generation training and others) was considerably delayed (see below). It is not likely, however, that these delays are a serious threat to the success of the certification assessment, because the project partners are working very professionally to establish sound production structures.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The main problem during the last 6 months was the delay of some activities which are crucial for the progress of the project as a whole and for a successful certification assessment. The second generation training of farmers has not yet been completed although it was due for completion by the end of June. The main reason was delayed transfer of funds from Oxfam to Kwetu. Other delayed activities include: 1) kiln construction; 2) registration of CTP and CFFA; 3) completion of resource survey and management plan. Except for the registration of the company and the association and the second generation training, all other crucial activities have been completed. As funds have meanwhile been transferred, training activities will be carried out during the next 4-6 weeks. As a dry run will have to precede the certification assessment, the latter will have to be postponed to December 2004 or January 2005. The project coordinator is currently in negotiation with Woodmark to fix the dates of the assessment.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No, none of these issues has been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat, because 1) they do not result in a change of the objectives, activities and anticipated output of the project and 2) they do not threaten the certification assessment.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

At the moment, there are no other issues to raise.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**