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WWF Eastern Africa Conservation Programme: A five-year retrospective

An overview of the delivery of conservation in 2000–2005



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WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office (EARPO)
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DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Tom Kabii, former WWF-EARPO Conservation Programme Director, who lost his life through a tragic accident in the course of duty for WWF-EARPO. Tom was passionate about conservation and especially conservation in Eastern Africa for which he relocated from Australia to Kenya to play a major role.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr. Sam Kanyamibwa was the Regional Representative during the period under review and for which the activities reported here were undertaken. He provided the necessary vision, inspiration and drive to ensure quality delivery. WWF-EARPO is indebted to him for providing such a leadership.

So much financial resources have gone into the delivery of the results reported in this document. These resources were provided by WWF National Organisations, Government Aid Agencies and private sector actors. WWF-EARPO acknowledges their contributions for supporting conservation and development in eastern Africa.

Mr. Richard Barnwell, formerly of WWF-UK, kindly provided the framework for this document and wrote the primary text. WWF-EARPO acknowledges his contribution. Several programme staff assisted Richard Barnwell in putting this document together. They are too many to be listed individually however WWF-EARPO greatly acknowledges their different contributions.

This document is the brain-child of Dr. Kwame Koranteng, WWF-EARPO Regional Representative, who came up with the idea of documenting the conservation and development achievements in the framework of WWF-EARPO's 2000 – 2005 Conservation Strategic Plan. He commissioned this work, took it as his personal project and put the document in shape. Without his vision and commitment, this document will not have been produced. WWF-EARPO acknowledges his leadership in this regard and for taking personal responsibility for the production of this document.

FOREWORD

WWF's Strategic Plan for its work in Eastern Africa for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2005 was developed to contribute both to the conservation objectives of the countries of Eastern Africa and to the global conservation priorities of the WWF family. In the period under review, the organization undertook various conservation activities throughout the region from the shores of Zanzibar to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, from the floors of the Rift Valley to the Rwenzori mountains of Uganda and Rwanda and from Ethiopia in the northern hemisphere to Tanzania in the south.

The conservation achievements resulting from WWF's work in the Eastern Africa Region are usually reported to the WWF network through the organization's intranet, Connect. When I took over the leadership of the WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office (WWF-EARPO), I identified the need to make these achievements better known outside the WWF family and the need to highlight the conservation efforts of WWF's projects and programmes in the region and the contribution of partners. There was also the need to underscore the support given by national governments and local communities in the organization's conservation activities.

This overview covers the life of EARPO's 2000-2005 Conservation Plan and attempts to give a synthesis of the annual reports in retrospect. It sets the stage for future similar reports. In compiling this report, I was over and over again re-assured of the significant contributions that WWF has made in the conservation of key habitats and species in Eastern Africa. We have achieved successes in the conservation of forests and associated fauna, freshwater and marine ecosystems. We have seen growth in the population of WWF flagship species in the Region, especially mountain gorillas in the Rwenzori Mountains in the face of civil conflicts in the range states and black rhinos in Kenya. We have come up with elaborate plans for sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources in the western Indian Ocean and for the avoidance of conflict over freshwater in key river basins, usually transboundary in nature, in the region. These and other significant milestones are elaborated in this report.

On several occasions, I had paused to ask the question, "What would be the status of key habitats and species in Eastern Africa were it not for the work of WWF and other conservation organizations over the years?". I am sure you would also be faced with this question as you read this report.



Dr. Kwame A. Koranteng
Regional Representative,
WWF-EARPO

BACKGROUND

The mission of WWF—the Global Conservation Organisation—is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption.

The WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme is implemented through two programme offices, namely the Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office (WWF-EARPO) with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and the Tanzania Programme Office (TPO) based in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. WWF-EARPO is responsible for overseeing and supporting the development and implementation of projects and programmes in eleven countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. TPO is responsible for programmes in Tanzania. This review is mainly on the conservation activities of WWF-EARPO.

WWF-EARPO acts as the principal focus within the eastern Africa region for the WWF family and to assist WWF conservation activities

by providing project support and evaluation at the local and regional level.

In 1999, the WWF Africa and Madagascar Programme (WWF-AMP) developed a Strategic Plan for the Eastern Africa Region, covering the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2005. This Strategic Plan was developed in two parts, a Conservation Plan that outlines the main objectives and activities and a Business Plan that covers financial requirements and operational details. The Conservation Plan was developed to contribute both to the conservation objectives of the countries of Eastern Africa and to the global conservation priorities of the WWF family. These priorities have been defined within the G200 ecoregional programme and within the family's six key thematic issues of Forests, Freshwater, Oceans/Coasts, Species, Climate Change and Toxics.

The period between 2000 and 2005 was an exciting one for WWF in Eastern Africa, with many new developments and much achievement, despite the continuing political and social instability in the DRC and in Somalia. In Sudan, a peace agreement was signed between the government of Sudan and opposition groups in the south of the country, bringing with it the hope of finally ending many years of destructive fighting and chaos.

An Eastern Africa Conservation Partnership Forum was formed in 2002, to feed into the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. WWF-EARPO received good publicity and exposure at the summit and a number of important conservation advances were launched. The World Parks Congress in 2003 also enabled WWF-EARPO to publicise its conservation agenda and programmes.

During the period, WWF-EARPO engaged in top level policy work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the East African Community (EAC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP), many other institutions and all the governments in the region.

WWF-EARPO launched a Corporate Club in 2003, to bring together commercial institutions that were interested in directly supporting conservation activities and in improving their own environmental audits.

In the five years under review, WWF-EARPO undertook conservation activities in the Region according to its 2000-2005 Conservation Strategic Plan. There were field projects in all the countries except Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia,

and Sudan because of the security situation in these countries. A total of 31 projects were implemented within the framework of the Strategic Plan. The projects, several of which were transboundary in nature, were in the four priority biomes of forests, freshwater, oceans and coasts and acacia savannahs. Activities aimed at conservation of endangered species and promotion of sustainable use of wildlife were also undertaken and focused on ensuring viable populations of elephants, rhinoceros, mountain gorillas, marine turtles and dugongs.

The Conservation Strategic Plan listed eight objectives, four of which are biome or ecosystem based (forests, freshwater, marine and savannahs) and four cross cutting objectives (sustainable wildlife use, environmental awareness, capacity building and policy). For each objective a number of targets were set. This overview looks, in general terms, at the delivery of the planned conservation work, and the main achievements during the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2005. It also assembles salient issues covered in WWF-EARPO's annual reports for the period.



Wood carvings made from neem rather than the over-harvested hardwoods now bear the Forest Stewardship Council logo. It gives consumers the assurance that the carvings have been produced from a sustainable resource. (WWF-UK / Brent STIRTON / Getty Images)

CONSERVATION DELIVERY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Eastern Africa has some of the most internationally famous wildlife habitats in the world including the Masai Mara Game Reserve (Kenya), the Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) and the volcanoes of the Virunga Mountains (DRC). These habitats support a rich diversity of fauna and flora, including renowned mega fauna such as elephants, rhinos, great apes, lions, leopards and buffaloes. A number of these animals are flagship species in WWF's efforts to conserve global biodiversity. The economies of the countries in the WWF

Eastern Africa Region are heavily dependent upon agriculture and exploitation of natural resources which if not properly planned could affect biodiversity adversely.

The region is subject to a number of threats, primarily due to increasing population pressure and associated intensification and diversification of land-use and habitat deterioration, fragmentation and loss. In addition, weak or non-existent relevant policies and ineffective implementation of existing policies have lead to unsustainable use of most natural resources of the region.

WWF-EARPO's projects in the period under review were in the thematic areas of forests, freshwater, coastal and marine, species as well as cross-cutting issues of policy and environmental education.

FORESTS

During the five year period, WWF-EARPO focused its forest conservation efforts on two main ecoregional programmes, the Albertine Rift Montane Forests Ecoregion (ARMFE) and the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Ecoregion (EACFE). Forest conservation projects (but not full ecoregional programmes) were also implemented in the Eastern Arc Montane Ecoregion, the Ethiopian Highlands and the Miombo Woodlands Ecoregion.

Albertine Rift Montane Forests Ecoregion

In the Albertine Rift, a strategic framework for the ecoregion was completed, during a process that included successful face-to-face meetings between the park authorities of the countries involved in the programme, namely Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. A key feature of this programme has been its ability to bring conservationists of different countries productively together, often in very difficult political circumstances. The Albertine Rift Programme has shown



Tree nursery in buffer zone of Virunga National Park, DRC.

exactly how cross-boundary conservation planning and field operations can be successfully implemented. During the wide-ranging, consultative planning process, a vision for the ecoregion was developed, plans for landscape units within the ecoregion were drawn up and the detailed mapping and analysis of protected areas throughout the ecoregion undertaken. In order to undertake this mapping work, in-house Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expertise was established within the programme, a facility that will also benefit other programmes that are managed by the WWF-EARPO.

Another significant feature of the Albertine Rift Programme was that while much time and resources were put into the ecoregional planning process, great efforts were focused on ensuring that a coordinated network of valuable field projects was successfully maintained and that new projects were developed, funded and launched. Thus, the focus on the ecoregional planning process did not result in any decline in field-based conservation activities within the ecoregion. On the contrary, the last five years saw important developments of existing projects and many new projects were started.

The continuing success of the field-based projects within the Albertine Rift was illus-

trated by the demarcation of the boundary of the Virunga National Park in the DRC, the successful reclamation of land within the park that had been illegally encroached upon and the establishment of several hundred hectares of alternative fuelwood plantations outside the park. The environmental education programme (PEVi) continued its long tradition of reaching tens of thousands of rural people with its environmental conservation initiatives.

During the period under review, a number of exciting new initiatives were launched in

the Albertine Rift. In DRC, WWF resumed its work in Kahuzi-Biega NP, home to the largest population of the endangered Eastern Lowland Gorilla, which is endemic to the country. Significant progress has been made in the Itoimbwe Forest, north-west of Lake Tanganyika which is one of the most biodiverse mountain forests in Africa. WWF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ICCN (the Congolese National Parks Authority) and WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) to pave the way for the formal gazetment and conservation of the for-



Taking environmental education to the people. Virunga, DRC.

est under the new Forest Code of DRC. The main contribution from the project has been the completion of the first socio-economic study ever undertaken there, the purchase and processing of high resolution satellite images for proper planning and various consultation with communities so as to capture their interest in the planning process.

Since 2003, WWF also supported conservation agencies in Burundi, particularly in the

Kibira National Park which is contiguous with Nyungwe NP in Rwanda, providing support to rangers and local communities as well as agroforestry activities. A study to document the current status of the Kibira National Park and identify the best strategy for its long term protection was initiated.

In Uganda, a project was initiated in the eastern catchment of Lake Albert to promote integrated watershed management and con-

serve the forests in the Lake's basin. Furthermore, a new Rwenzori Mountains project was launched, after the closure of earlier initiatives in 1998/1999, following the deterioration in security conditions in the Rwenzori area. The Rwenzori Massif, shared between DRC and Uganda is a World Heritage Site of global conservation value. The WWF Rwenzori Mountains Conservation Project was to address the following:

- Unclear boundaries
- Poor land management practices and deliberate bush burning in the Park
- Land use change
- Lack of community awareness and inadequate information flow
- Inadequate capacity of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
- Poor Infrastructure
- Lack of direct benefits from the park resources to the communities
- Poaching for bush meat

Thus, the project is to support the Uganda Wildlife Authority in the implementation of the management plan for this area and in staff training. It is also to support the local districts and CBOs in developing their environmental plans and natural resources management initiatives.



Two issues of the environmental education magazine “Kacheche” produced by PEVi at 60,000 copies each.

Charcoal production, an issue in the Rwenzori mountains area.



Climbers on Rwenzori Mountains.



Mr Marc Languy, EARPO's Albertine Rift Programmes Coordinator at the launch of the Uganda Rwenzori and Lake Albert projects.



East African Coastal Forest Ecoregion and Good Woods

WWF-EARPO's second ecoregional forest programme, the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Ecoregion Programme, has made significant progress. Target protected area sites have been identified, functional national task forces have been created in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania, draft ecoregional plans have been formulated, a strategic framework for the ecoregion developed and a lean secretariat to support the Ecoregion agenda through the key stakeholders has been put in place.

Substantial funding for the development of the Ecoregion strategy, putting in place a functional secretariat and demonstrating the activities developed in the ecoregion strategy has been secured from WWF-UK, WWF-CH, Ford Foundation, CEPF while more support is expected from GEF and WWF Norway.

As the process to develop the ecoregion programme and mechanism was being developed, a number of significant field-based pilot projects were also being implemented. The first of these was the Good Woods project in the coast region of Kenya, which successfully developed farm-grown timber, mainly neem (*Azadirachita indica*) Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and mango (*Mangifera indica*) as an alternative source of carving wood to the rapidly disappearing indigenous timbers. This project has been so successful that in 2005 the Forest Stewardship Council awarded full certification to the Coast Farm Forestry Association. In the same certification process, chains of custody certificates were awarded to Akamba Handicrafts and to the Kenya Coast Tree Products company. The goal is now to scale up the experiences from this certification project into other parts of Kenya as well as Tanzania and Mozambique.

The second is the Kaya Kinondo ecotourism project in Kenya. Kaya Kinondo is one of the oldest of the indigenous sacred forests on the South Kenyan coast, and is one of the 38 sites that have been gazetted under The National Antiquities and Monuments Act. It is located in one of the most intensively developed tourist destinations at the coast in Kwale district. These forests have survived pressures of tourism developments and population growth because of the cultural beliefs of the Mijikenda (indigenous coastal) people.

The Mijikenda use Kayas (sacred forests) to commune with their ancestral spirits through worship and sacrificial offerings. Prayers for the sick and troubled, for rain and good harvests, for wisdom and strength are held in Kayas. Atonement for offences against nature, rites of passage and other rituals are also undertaken here. Within its 30 hectares, Kaya Kinondo has 187 plant species, 48 species of

birds and 45 species of butterfly, representing five per cent of Kenya's known butterfly species. There are also the rare Elephant Shrew and the threatened Colobus Monkey, among others.

More recently, with support from WWF-EARPO and the Ford Foundation, the Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Pilot Project was formulated to improve community livelihoods by opening up the rich biodiversity and fascinating culture to tourists. The project, owned and managed by the local Digo community, is testing the viability of ecotourism as a means of yielding real tangible social and economic benefits for

communities engaged in conservation. For the purposes of financial management, the Kaya Kinondo Village Bank was established and is now operational. Income generated from the ecotourism project is placed at the bank, and membership currently stands at 204 members with total savings standing above Ksh 200,000 (about US\$3,000).

The ecotourism project was the recipient of the Elisabeth Jihde Award from WWF-Sweden in 2005, for its outstanding contribution to biodiversity conservation coupled with tangible economic benefits for forest adjacent communities. The community decided to purchase a vehicle (below) to enhance the projects efficiency culminating in the official presentation of this vehicle to the community in October 2005 by WWF EARPO Regional Representative.

The **third** project is mapping of the Coastal Forests. This ongoing process is funded by WWF-Switzerland with the aim of creating geo-referenced maps of the Eastern Africa Coastal Forests Ecoregion and the eventual production of a user-friendly Atlas of the same, for use by practitioners and stakeholders. This was done by experts based in the three focal countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

The **fourth** is a facility from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) which is a

joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The CEPF investment of \$7million for 5 years for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania Biodiversity Hotspot, commenced in 2004 and runs until 2009. WWF-EARPO is on the Coordination Unit for this hotspot. The CEPF Coordination Unit (CU) was established to ensure that an effective, efficient and coordinated approach is applied amongst stakeholders to achieve the CEPF conservation outcomes for the Eastern Arc / Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot in Kenya and Tanzania. WWF-EARPO's role in the CU is to ensure that Civil Society Organisations have the capacity to apply for the said funding using the recommended template and the Letter of Inquiry (LoI). To date, over 100 Civil Society Organisations have applied for CEPF funding with majority of the allocated funds having being disbursed.

The **fifth** project is the pilot forest landscape restoration work launched around the Shimba Hills in Kenya. The purpose of this project was to enhance the landscape forest functions of the Shimba Hills ecosystem and the surrounding landscape, as well as the production capacity for sustainable social and economic development. This pilot project has now been scaled up to a larger FLR being implemented in the whole Kwale district in Kenya.



Proud recipients display the FSC certificates: (from right) Wood carvers, Tree growers and the Chain of custody, March 2005. Nairobi, Kenya.



The implementation of the EACFE strategy started in July 2005 through the National Task Forces (NTFs) and the Regional Task Force (RTFs). The components facilitated by WWF are Coordination, Consolidation of the Good Woods processes and landscape restoration. In the area of Coordination, the secretariat is supporting the Task Forces in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. Consolidation of the Good Woods processes in Kilifi and Malindi are under way and there are follow-up actions to maintain the FSC certification standards and scaling up by supporting the certification processes in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. Landscape restoration initiatives were started in Kwale (Kenya), Matumbi Hills and Lower Usambaras (Tanzania) with support from WWF-UK and Ford Foundation, WWF-UK and WWF-Finland respectively.

The Coastal Forests programme also sponsored a number of partners from Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique for training in a number of disciplines at the MS-TCDC in Arusha, Tanzania. In collaboration with TRAFFIC, the Coastal Forests programme also initiated discussions on a number of policy and cross cutting issues including timber trade in Southern Tanzania linked to the Far East

In Tanzania, the coastal forest that had received considerable support from WWF throughout the 1990s, Zaraninge Forest Reserve, was successively amalgamated with the adjoining Sadaani Game Reserve which formed the new Sadaani National Park, an intriguing mixture of coastal forest, acacia savannah, mangrove and coastal ecosystems. Elsewhere in the Tanzanian coastal forests, effective protection was extended to forests in the Matumbi Hills and on the Rondo Plateau in the south of the country, while community forest management initiatives were launched in the surrounding woodland areas. However, surveys undertaken by the Ecoregion programme through TRAFFIC revealed that considerable quantities of hardwood logs and timber were harvested and some large volumes exported from the country during this period. The study has provided additional information (for both WWF and the government of Tanzania) for an informed planning

and implementation of the FLR activity in the southern Tanzania coastal forests.

In Mozambique, while progress was achieved with the ecoregional planning process, there is limited funding secured and this needs additional efforts to have the required resources and support for implementation of the EACFE strategy there.

Bale Mountains National Park and Mena-Angetu National Forest, Ethiopia

The DGIS-WWF Forest Conservation in High Priority Areas Project in Ethiopia was started in August 1999 as part of the WWF-DGIS Tropical Forests portfolio funded by the DGIS and executed by WWF. The focus was on two of the Ethiopia's important protected areas, namely the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) and the Mena-Angetu National Forest Priority Area (NFPA).

The project objectives were:

- to strengthen institutional capacity to manage Ethiopia's important protected areas, with emphasis on forests, and
- to conserve and manage the forest and wildlife resources in the BMNP and Mena-Angetu NFPA.

The project partners included the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization (EWCO), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Oromia Rural Lands and Natural Resources Administration, authorities of the Bale Mountains National Park and Mena-Angetu National Forest Priority Area, and local communities. In spite of the implementation difficulties experienced in this project, it was able to deliver on a number of its objectives and made substantial contribution towards enhancing the capacity of the Ethiopian partners in the management of the biomes in the project area.

Mau Forest Complex, Kenya

The WWF eastern Africa Corporate Club started a forest landscape restoration project in the Mau forest in 2004. The aim of the initiative was to contribute to curbing the degradation of the Mau forest and restoring its integrity, and to act as an example to other similar initiatives. The project was to apply a three-pronged pilot approach in addressing the Forest issues. These were advocacy and lobbying of government and legislators for development of robust policy and legislative instruments, capacity building and mobiliza-

tion of local communities in forest conservation efforts, and environmental awareness targeting local communities, private sector and legislators.

The project was to work in pilot sites that represent the different problems that confront the forest. The lessons learnt in the implementation of the project in these areas were to be documented and used to inform similar work in this catchment and other forest catchments in eastern Africa. Furthermore, it was envisaged that this corporate partnership in conservation will generate wider support among the corporate sector in Eastern Africa leading to many similar initiatives.

The Mau Forest project promoted forest landscape restoration through empowering local communities and enhancing partnership for forest conservation among government departments and functionaries, communities and the private sector. The project is also promoting environmental awareness in communities adjacent to the Mau forest and has given assistance to the Forest Department and local communities, including the forest-dwelling Ogiek people, to establish and maintain tree nurseries and woodlots. Obviously, these efforts also contributed to improved livelihood and poverty reduction in these communities.



WWF Staff at Bale market, Ethiopia.



COASTAL AND MARINE

The Eastern Africa Marine Ecoregion (EAME) programme is the focal point for WWF's support for marine work in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania, with considerable effort spent on working through time-consuming but necessary ecoregion planning process. This was initially launched through a regional strategy workshop in Tanzania in November 1999 and after many other workshops and consultations, an agreed Ecoregional vision, strategic framework and action plans were in place by July 2004.

EAME stretches from southern Somalia to north-eastern South Africa (approximately 4,600 km of mainland coastline). During 2004, South Africa was brought into the EAME process, taking the programme's activities into the southernmost reaches of the ecoregion. A decision was taken to extend the EAME southern boundary to include more of the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa and the Biodiversity Working Group of South Africa was adopted as the EAME focal institution.

The EAME area is universally accepted as having significant global importance for biodiversity. The main habitats of open waters, coral reefs, mud flats, rocky shores, seagrass beds and mangrove forests form an inter-linked mosaic of complex marine ecosystems.

The ecoregion hosts rare marine species including marine turtles and dugongs.

The planning process involved the establishment of EAME national committees, national focal institutions and a regional committee. These structures were responsible for drawing up EAME National Action Plans and for working with the EAME Secretariat in coordinating the programme activities throughout this very large Ecoregion. The programme received additional impetus in 2003 through the Commonwealth Seas Initiative, where the presidents of EAME national governments pledged support for WWF efforts in conservation of coastal and marine environment in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa. EAME also received support from the US State Department to facilitate a process of developing a network of marine protected areas in Eastern Africa and a comprehensive report on the status of marine protected areas in the EAME region was published in 2004.

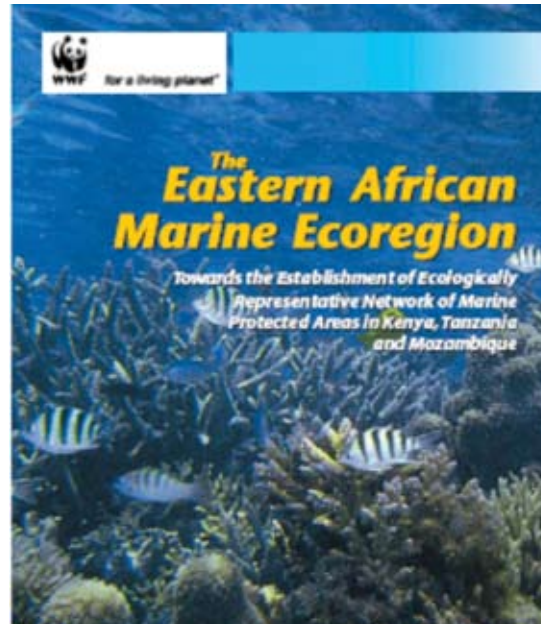
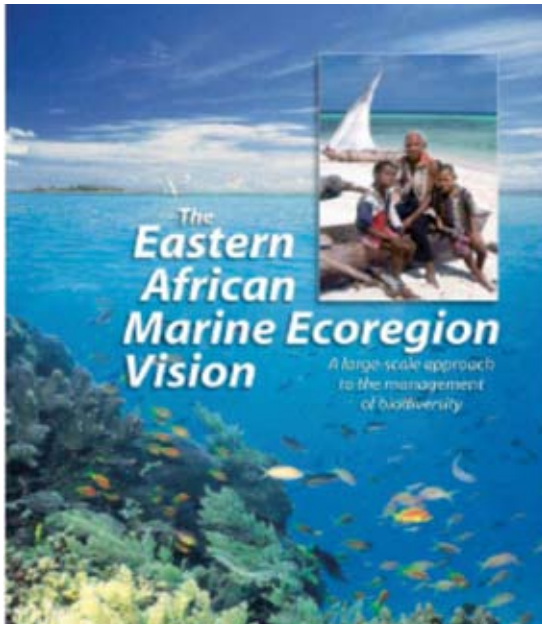
Furthermore, the EAME programme gained valuable exposure at the World Parks Congress held in Durban, South Africa in September 2003 during the EAME side event that was well attended by high level government leaders including ministers from Mozambique and Madagascar, Chief Emeka Anyaoku the President of WWF International, senior representatives from each of the EAME countries

and international organizations, as well as delegates from other parts of the world which are striving toward similar goals, including Vietnam, Australia, West Africa, and the West Indian Ocean Marine Ecoregion. The purpose of the event was to celebrate conservation leadership by the governments and partners in EAME. Great new steps forward were made in terms of commitments by the governments to both establishment of new marine protected areas and partnerships for the future.

The EAME programme pioneered the concept of activating field programmes through a number of core components, namely a policy-based “enabling environment” component and several large-scale, “seascape” marine conservation programmes. The “enabling environment” was launched with the expansion of the EAME secretariat to include a Policy Officer and a Community Fisheries Development Officer during 2004, while the first “seascape” programme was initiated in the same

year at “Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa (RUMAKI) seascape in Tanzania. This seascape programme is covering the whole of Rufiji delta, Mafia Island and the Kilwa archipelago. The aim is to improve socio-economic well-being of coastal communities through sustainable, participatory and equitable utilization and protection of their natural resources. Other activities within this seascape include continued management of the Mafia Island Marine Protected Area, development of sustainable community based fisheries management throughout the seascape, inclusion of the Songo-Songo natural gas field in marine conservation planning and identification of marine sanctuaries for biodiversity conservation.

While the EAME programme was going through the planning process a number of valuable, site-based marine conservation projects within the ecoregion were closely supported by WWF. These include the Kiunga National Marine Reserve in Kenya, Mafia Island Marine Park and the Menai Bay conservation area in Tanzania, and the Quirimbas and Bazaruto national parks in Mozambique. This is part of the 24 marine protected areas and reserves currently being implemented in the ecoregion through collaborative efforts involving national governments and other EAME partners. Significant progress was made in the area of establishment and effective management of MPAs in the EAME. A number of new



The long term vision of the EAME programme is to maintain a healthy marine and coastal environment that provides sustainable benefits for the present and future generations of both local and international communities, who also understand and actively care for its biodiversity and ecological integrity.

MPAs were established and the boundaries of old ones were extended. MPA managers exchange programme was established to promote lessons sharing and rapid integration of the existing system on MPAs into a functional network.

In Tanzania, the Mafia Island Marine Park was closely supported by WWF, with completion of a management plan, the successful development of a fishing gear exchange programme, the establishment of no-take zones within the protected area and the ongoing monitoring of the coral reefs and their fish populations. The Rufiji delta in Tanzania was declared a Ramsar site in 2005. On the island of Zanzibar, the Menai Bay community conservation project became an attraction for tourists, with its coral reefs and populations of dolphins.

Further to the south in Mozambique significant gains for marine conservation were achieved. The boundaries of the 600 sq km Bazaruto Archipelago Marine Park were extended a further 800 sq km, to include all the islands within the archipelago. A new marine park, the 7,500 sq km Quirimbas National Park, was declared by the government of Mozambique, funding was secured and work started on its development, with the identification of fishing grounds and no-take zones. A management plan for Quirimbas National Park (2004-2009) was also approved by the government of Mo-

zambique during this period. Furthermore, the Zambezi delta was declared a Ramsar site covering 8,000 sq km, this being the largest contribution to date towards the WSSD target of 20% of the world's coastal areas being under protection by 2015. In this same vein the establishment of the Primeras and Segundas archipelagos (an area spanning up to 15,000 sq km) marine national park is making good progress. When gazetted this will be the largest marine protected area within the Western Indian Ocean and in Africa.

The WWF Kiunga Marine National Reserve Conservation and Development Project in Kenya is part of the EAME long-term conservation strategy which is focussing on the establishment and management of a network of Marine Protected Areas within priority seascapes, conservation of wide-ranging species, addressing trans-national threats, enhancement of the enabling policy and legal environment, promoting sustainable livelihoods and capacity building of partners in conservation. The Kiunga Marine National Reserve and its' environs are of global cultural and environmental significance. Located in coastal north-eastern Kenya, over an area of 250km², the reserve encompasses a unique diversity of marine habitats and species. Just inland lies the Doodri National Reserve which is home to a myriad of fauna and flora.

The Kiunga Project underwent an evaluation in June 2003. The major outcome of this evaluation was that in order to deliver, the project had to change its operational style and structure. Consequently, a new Project Coordinator was hired and a consultant engaged to assist in a consultative planning and development of Phase 4 of the project as recommended by the review team. It was recommended that the project reduce the scale of its activities and concentrate on the essentials, including the



urgent need to tackle the unsustainable level of fishing operations and to allow the main partner, the Kenya Wildlife Service, a more equal role in the management of the project. The evaluation report formed the building block for the development of a proposal for a three-year fourth phase, starting in July 2005. Key additions in phase 4 include a component that develops linkages between human and environmental health with funding from USAID and Johnson & Johnson.

The project tackled a wide range of activities, including the education of local school girls, the provision of health care for coastal communities, the development of ecofriendly handicrafts, the conservation of turtles, the

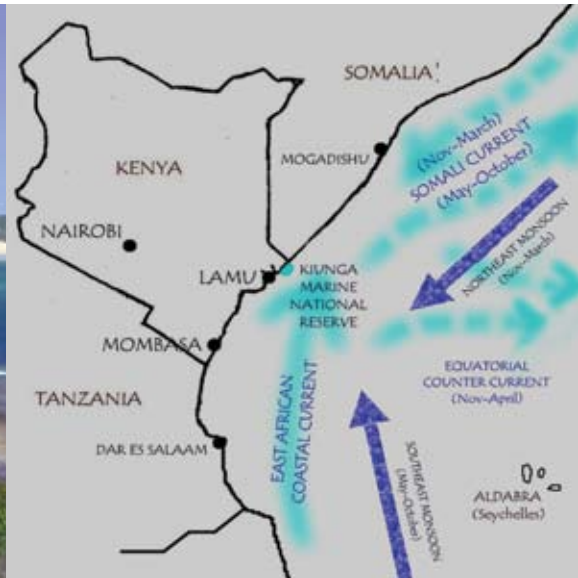
monitoring and protection of coral reefs and the sustainability of fishing activities. The Kiunga marine turtle conservation programme was mainly set up to protect turtles nesting on KMNR beaches as well as at sea. Activities include sea and beach patrols with KWS and Fisheries Department to protect and monitor turtle nests and foraging grounds, as well as integrating coral reef monitoring with turtle conservation.

Environment-Health linkages work focussed on the fight against malaria, on immunizations and health education with the support of USAID and Johnson & Johnson. The project supported a mobile clinic in the catchment area.

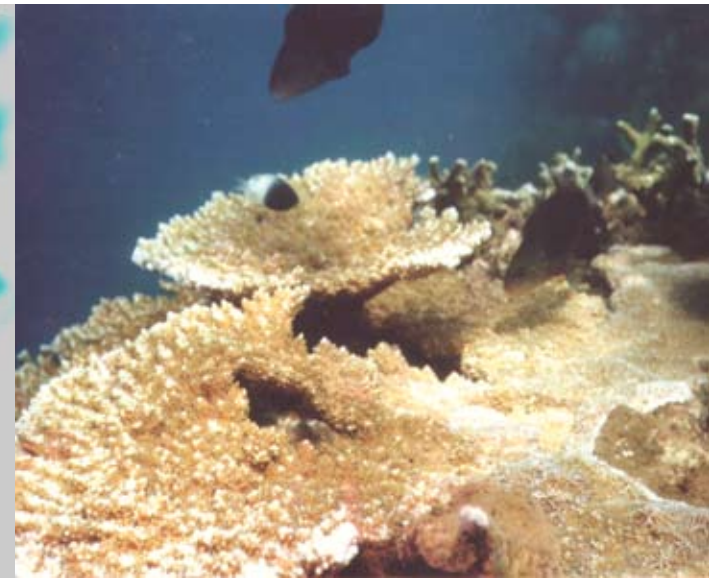
Since 1997, communities within the Kiunga Marine National Reserve have been working with the KMNR management team in an initiative to convert beach waste, particularly flip-flops, into saleable curios and other items. The concept was introduced to the KMNR community by an independent health volunteer who encouraged local women to cut up flip flops to make stuffing for cushions. Later, and with technical support from WWF, the local women, children and youth started using the washed up flip-flops to make toys held together by sticks and thorns, and the handicrafts concept was born. Since then production has improved and expanded and new designs have been introduced. The KMNR



Aerial view of the Kiunga area.



Ocean currents converging in the Kiunga area.



Corals off the Kiunga coast.

Team assists the Flip flop Art/Eco-friendly groups by collecting the flip-flops and other waste washed ashore whilst carrying out their daily turtle monitoring patrols. The inexhaustible supply of raw materials is weighed and distributed to the various women and youth groups. Local women and village communities have in the past benefited financially with up to USD 4000 in earnings in one village with two hundred women and fifty youth. Interviews with the producers suggest that the money is often responsibly invested in children's education and welfare. Large quantities of flip-flops have been removed from local beaches, improving the quality of the environment for humans, turtles and other marine life. Twenty



Collection of waste from the beach.

percent of the three thousand women in the Kiunga Marine National Reserve area and five percent of the youth are currently engaged in this activity.

In February 2005 many local fishermen participated in the successful exchange of fishing gear provided with support from Vodafone of U.K. through their local subsidiary Safaricom. In this exercise, the small-size meshed monofilament nylon nets were exchanged for relatively larger-meshed nets. The effect of this exercise in reducing capture of juvenile fish is being monitored but overall, fishing pressure remains challengingly high.

The project continues to be a shining example of a successful collaborative management of a Marine Protected Area in Kenya with Kenya Wildlife Service, WWF, Fisheries Department, Forest Department, Lamu County Council and communities as the partners. A film made about the project called "High Hopes and Low Tides" won a Golden Dhow award at the International Zanzibar Film Festival in June 2002. Discussions are ongoing to scale up conservation in this MPA to cover the much larger Lamu seascape.

Kiunga is isolated and therefore very expensive to operate in. Fuel costs up to 75% more than the national average (boats are used more than cars and these consume more fuel), communication (email and telephone)

is by satellite, maintenance cost for equipment (computers, vehicles and boats) is very high due to the highly corrosive nature of the environment (sea water, humidity) and lack of roads. Service parts are also couriered by plane from Nairobi or Mombasa. Other supplies, e.g. food, medicine, stationery are also shipped in from Lamu Island. For three months in the peak of the South-East Monsoon (May-July), Kiunga is completely cut off from the rest of the world. The sea and the only road are impassable and the only airstrip is flooded.

The EAME programme also issued a number of small grants to support specific projects in different countries for providing scientific information that was needed during the planning process. An important contribution was made in dugong surveys in collaboration with UNEP and WCS that resulted in a comprehensive report on the status of dugongs in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

In line with the WWF global target on sustainable use of fishery resources, the EAME secretariat organised a workshop on fisheries partnerships agreements for Fisheries Directors and Ministers of Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries in June 2005. The main objective of the workshop was information sharing and building of capacity of participating countries in negotiating fisheries partnership agreements as well as initiating the



ABOVE: A curtain made from trash that comes to Kiunga from all over the world.

BELOW: Dr. Kwame Koranteng, Regional Representative WWF-EARPO (extreme left), and Mr. Michael Joseph (centre), CEO Safaricom, hand over sustainable fishing gear to Kiunga fishermen.

process for establishment of minimum terms and conditions that WIO coastal states need to consider in granting access to their countries fisheries resources.

The EAME secretariat also actively participated in a series of meetings of the World Bank/WWF/FAO Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries in Sub-Saharan African countries and specifically facilitated the second consultative workshop held in Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania in June 2005. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved \$60 million for this project in 2005, where again WWF was appointed a permanent member of the Regional Advisory Committee for this project.

FRESHWATER

Freshwater resources in Eastern Africa are threatened by catchment degradation in the major water towers, climate variability and change, and competition over access to, and use of, water. In terms of climate variability the region experiences climate extremes of prolonged droughts that recur more frequently now and high rainfall leading to serious floods. Both conditions lead to severe water shortage that at times results in violent clashes between rival groups of water users and prolonged deficits of hydro-electric power.

The Freshwater Programme of WWF-EARPO started as a single project in 1988 with a small



integrated conservation and development project in the catchment of Lake Nakuru in Kenya. This project remained a stand-alone project until 1996 when WWF-EARPO started another community based wetlands conservation project in the catchments of two protected areas in Kenya: Lake Bogoria National Reserve and Saiwa Swamp National Park. Lakes Nakuru and Bogoria, both occurring in the Gregory Rift Valley of Eastern Africa, are saline and the most important world feeding sites for the lesser flamingo. The lakes are also host to other important species especially a diverse group of waterfowl. In recognition of their importance, both lakes have been designated Ramsar wetland sites of international importance. WWF-EARPO supported the Ramsar listing process in both sites.



In 2001, the long-running (1988-2001) Lake Nakuru Conservation and Development Project was closed due to cessation of funding. However most of the project's activities were taken up by local community groups and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). At the same time, WWF-EARPO developed a Rift Valley Lakes Ecoregion Programme that encompassed the two lakes and other similar lakes in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia that form a series of saline lakes in the Eastern Rift Valley Lakes Ecoregion (ecoregion no. 182). Unfortunately, the desire to focus on this ecoregion did not progress as planned since the ecoregion was downgraded from the WWF priority ecoregions list.

With funding for the Mara River Basin Management Initiative in 2003, WWF-EARPO took a decision to start a freshwater program cutting across the priority ecoregions and river basins of Eastern Africa and recruited an experienced Programme Leader to coordinate this programme. Since then, the Freshwater Programme has grown in geographic scope, thematic coverage and resources to deliver on its targets. Currently the programme has ongoing projects in the Mara River Basin, Albertine Rift and the Rift Valley Lakes of Eastern Africa. The sister programme in Tanzania run by the WWF Tanzania Programme Office (WWF-TPO) has a big river basin programme in the Greater Ruaha River that started in 1999 and a new programme in Songwe River. In terms of thematic scope, the programme's work includes wetland conservation and management, integrated river basin management, water resource use and poverty reduction, and effects of climate change on freshwater resources. This work is done within the framework of the targets set out in the WWF One Global Programme. Finally it is important to mention that the programme's funding grew from USD 589,007 in 2003 (FY04) to USD 2,077,238 in 2005 (FY06).

Both Kenya and Tanzania have developed integrated water resources management strategies and have put in place appropriate institutions to implement this strategy. The most important aspect of these strategies is the separation of the water services (water supply and sanitation) and water resources management with different institutions set up to deal with each component. WWF played a crucial role in the development of these strategies.

Lake Bogoria Community-Based Wetlands Conservation Project

WWF-EARPO has been successfully implementing a very important catchment management project around Lake Bogoria in the past 10 years. As mentioned above, Lake Bogoria is one of the most important feeding lakes for lesser flamingos, and supports large populations of flamingo and other water fowl and the Greater kudu. The catchment of the lake is home to an indigenous community of people called Endorois that has cultural links with the lake and use it for spiritual/cultural rites and graze their livestock around the lake especially during droughts. In recognition of its cultural and biodiversity importance, the lake was declared a RAMSAR site in August 2001.

WWF is implementing this project in partnership with the two District Councils of Koibatek and Baringo and the Kenya Wildlife Service.



ABOVE: Wildebeests graze in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, Kenya.

BELOW: Flamingos in Lake Nakuru, Kenya.

In the first phase (1996-2000) the project focused on environmental education, conflict resolution and capacity building of community groups for local environmental planning. In the second phase (2001-2005), the project focused on local environmental planning starting at the village level, going up to locational and District levels, capacity building of key government and District staff, ecological monitoring and development of an integrated management plan for the entire catchment. In June 2005, the project secured funding for a final consolidation phase that will upscale the project activities to the upper catchment of the main river feeding Lake Bogoria, i.e. Weseges River using the principles of integrated river basin management, implementation of the integrated management plan and a progressive exit strategy.

The most significant outcomes of WWF investment in the past 10 years are:

- resolution of the long-standing conflict between the District Councils and the indigenous community.

Lake Bogoria National Reserve is the only protected area in Kenya that gives 15% of its revenue to the local communities as their share of the benefits from the reserve. Subsequently, the government of

Kenya is using this reserve as a case example in the development of benefit sharing mechanism for protected areas in Kenya under the proposed Kenya Wildlife Policy;

- ownership of the Lake and its resources by the two District Councils and the responsibility they have assumed over the management of the resources in the lake and its catchment; and
- implementation of an integrated management plan, the first of its kind in Kenya.

The Mara River Basin Programme

The Mara River Basin is one of the 25 high priority basins for WWF globally. It is a source of six rivers flowing in different directions. These rivers include the Mara River that originates from the Mau Forest in Kenya and drains to Lake Victoria. The Mara River Basin is one of the two important sub-basins for Lake Victoria and by extension the Nile River. In recognition of its importance WWF has prioritised the Mara River Basin and secured funding to implement an integrated river basin initiative from Norad and WWF Norway in 2003.

WWF used this funding to facilitate a stakeholder dialogue in the Mara bringing together key stakeholders from governments, private sector, local communities and civil society. WWF also used the same funding to collect management oriented information to support

the stakeholder dialogue. WWF has since established a Water Resource Users' Association on the Kenyan part that has membership from large scale farmers, group ranches, hoteliers, local communities, municipalities and key government departments. This association liaises closely with the lake Victoria South Regional Office of the Water Resources Management Authority and is currently negotiating its role in allocating water rights in the Kenyan part of the basin. On the Tanzanian side, WWF has facilitated the formation of 12 water users associations that will eventually come together as a sub-catchment Water Resources Association.

During the implementation of the initiative on the Kenyan and Tanzanian sides, WWF realised that it would be important to engage at higher levels to validate decisions taken at the water resource users' level. WWF is therefore, working closely with the East African Community (EAC) and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and more specifically the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP), in order to form strong, high level partnerships with stakeholders in the Lake Victoria basin. WWF also recognised danger of leaving out biodiversity in the negotiations on water allocations. Unfortunately, WWF

could not do this with the limited funding from NORAD and WWF-Norway. Consequently, WWF through the Global Waters for Sustainability Alliance - GLOWS (Florida International University, World Vision, WWF, LakeNET and Amizade) applied for a "Leaders with Associates Award" to take the lead on all USAID integrated water resources management and secured funding from two sources in 2003 and 2004. These additional funding will enable WWF to work on higher policy issues and securing environmental flows for biodiversity as part of the overall integrated river basin management.

The Lake Naivasha Programme

From 2003 – 2005, WWF has been scoping for an integrated water resources management in Naivasha-Malewa River Basin with financial and technical support from WWF-NL. In 2005, the Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor (WSUP) alliance also fielded a scoping mission to explore opportunities for supporting a project for the peri-urban community of Mirera/Kiragita near Lake Naivasha. In 2005, WWF-EARPO secured 550,000 euros from WWF Netherlands to implement the first component, and an additional 150,000 dollars from the WSUP secretariat in UK to undertake feasibility and design of the WSUP project.



The geysers of Lake Bogoria National Reserve, Kenya.

The Lake Albert Management Project

The project started implementation in 2004 with funding from Norad under the WEHAB Norad window to work in the eastern catchment of Lake Albert. This project is being implemented in partnership with the District Councils of Hoima, Masindi and Kabaale Districts in western Uganda.

The goal of the Lake Albert Eastern Catchment Management Project is to create a situ-

ation where “catchment management of Lake Albert’s eastern catchment conserves water, biodiversity and other natural resources such that ecosystem functions are secured and basic human needs met.” The purpose of the project is that a “Mechanism for integrated water resource management established for at least three rivers draining to Lake Albert on the eastern side of Lake Albert by the end of 2008”. The project contributes to the above goal and achieves its purpose by working on the following seven outputs:

- District and other authorities and organisations facilitated to collect important information on catchment conditions, with particular emphasis on physical and environmental conditions.
- Increased awareness of catchment natural resource issues, including status, trends, degradation and possible opportunities.
- Stakeholder dialogue facilitated so that problem identification and ranking as well as opportunities and solutions



WWF Mara staff at the Mara Water Users Association meeting.

From conflict to consensus: 10 years of WWF investment in Lake Bogoria Wetlands

When WWF-EARPO started the Kenya Wetlands Project in Bogoria in 1996, the area was marked by intense conflicts between the local community (the indigenous Endorois) and the District Councils that manage Lake Bogoria National Reserve. The local people blocked tourist entrance to the National Reserve and the government resorted to use of force to clear the way. The conflict resulted from the way the National Reserve was established and failure by the government to meet its pledges to the local communities when it established the protected area in 1982.

The protected area was established on land that the Endorois community owned through traditional arrangement with the eviction of 320 families. The government promised to resettle these families on other government land outside Lake Bogoria, that 85% of employment opportunities would be reserved for members of the Endorois community and that they would have access to the National Reserve for their livestock during severe droughts and for cultural rites. Unfortunately, the government failed to honour these commitments. The problem was exacerbated by the failure of the District Council to share the revenue from the protected area with the local people, although this is a national trend with its roots in the Kenya Wildlife Policy.

WWF-EARPO Kenya Wetlands Projects engaged with the conflicting parties in a strategic way. This involved working with the local communities and the protected area authorities in different fora. The project focused on environmental education for both groups and building capacity for the protected area authority. The project supported training of the Senior Warden i/c of the Reserve in Thailand on Participatory Natural Resources Management. This training was transformational in that the Warden came back with a clear understanding of co-management of natural resources and conviction that this was the way forward for sustainable protected area management. In his own words, "we have to think of management beyond fences as the ultimate approach in biodiversity conservation". Eventually the District Councils and the local communities agreed to dialogue on the way forward in co-managing Lake Bogoria Natural Resources. This dialogue culminated in an integrated management for the entire catchment of Lake Bogoria.

Ten years later, Lake Bogoria is a showcase for co-management of protected areas and stands out as the only protected area in Kenya that shares revenue directly with local communities with 11% (this will soon go up to 15%) going to local communities and protected area management. The District Councils also support community development projects with mutually agreed funding level every year. The conflict that marked the relations between the local people and the protected area authorities has subsequently been replaced by consensus that is documented as the integrated management plan of Lake Bogoria Catchment whose implementation is overseen by Lake Bogoria Joint Management Committee.

identification are carried out.

- Capacity building needs identified and priority capacity building carried out.
- Implementation of identified action needs in the catchment in terms of natural resource management in output 3 above.
- Management of Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve and Kaiso-Tonya Community Wildlife Area improved.
- Water resources management framework at community / district levels in Hoima, Kibaale and Masindi Districts improved.

SPECIES

Eastern Africa is renowned throughout the world for its wildlife, most especially its charismatic “Big Five” namely; lion (*Panthera leo*), elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), buffalo (Bovidae cyncerus caffer) and other megafauna. This wildlife is a major attraction for tourists, with tourism becoming an ever-increasingly important part of the national economies in the region. Tourism revenues increased steadily during the period in most of the countries in the region, with even the much-troubled DRC hosting some intrepid tourists keen on visiting the mountain gorillas.

In Kenya, tourism is the second largest contributor to the national economy after agriculture. Tourism in Kenya is mainly based on natural attractions

that include wildlife in its natural habitats as well as idyllic beaches. Approximately 10% of the country has been set aside for conservation of wildlife and biodiversity. Game viewing is a very popular pursuit since most visitors to Kenya are predominantly interested in seeing “the big five”. The sector is a major employer as it currently employs over 220,000, which represents about 11% of the total workforce in the country.

WWF has played a recognized and valuable role in conserving several key species in Eastern Africa, including the elephant, black rhino, mountain gorilla, chimpanzee, marine turtle and the very rare dugong. Most of the species conservation work is undertaken with active involvement of partners including government departments and local communities.

Elephants

The main focus of WWF’s work to conserve elephants in Eastern Africa was on the urgent need to develop cost-effective methods of reducing conflicts between elephants and local communities. Since 1998, a pioneering human-elephant conflict (HEC) project in Transmara District, Kenya, implemented by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and supported by WWF, has researched the problem, identified locally appropriate mitigation methods, and tested these and other novel methods in situ. A need arose for longer-term comparative tests, demonstration and

replication of successful methods in other key HEC areas, evaluation of the impact upon local communities of tolerance towards elephants, and the establishment of greater linkages and technical capacity between communities and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to ensure a lasting solution. Twelve HEC mitigation trial sites have been established using chilli-tobacco-used oil, rope, watchtowers and powerful torches as tools to reduce HEC. The use of bees as a mitigation measure is also being monitored in one site at Ang’ata Barrikoi. Farmers have been trained on conflict mitigation strategies and how to record the information. Human-elephant conflict (HEC) was monitored across the region, in Kenya, Tanzania (Selous Game Reserve) and Mozambique.

Unfortunately, the successful exclusion of elephants from cropland in the Masai Mara has resulted in an influx of new farmers into the area, thus further diminishing the habitat range of the elephants. Successful HEC strategies will need to include land-use regulations that strictly exclude human settlement from prime elephant habitats.

The biggest challenge the project is facing is raising extra funds to support community initiatives in order to stop farming and engage in compatible land-use practices with elephant conservation. The proposed activities include eco-tourism, bee keeping and livestock improvement. Funds are also needed for elephant census and monitoring. The

other challenge is the increase in livestock predation thus impacting the main source of livelihood for the local community. The project needs to diversify its activities and address other wildlife challenges facing the local community.

In addition to the HEC programme, elephants received protection at a number of WWF-supported sites across the region, including the Virunga NP in the DRC, Volcano NP in Rwanda, Bwindi NP in Uganda, Selous Game Reserve, Udzungwa NP, Tarangire NP and Saadani NP in Tanzania and Tsavo NP in Kenya. WWF is supporting the government of Kenya in the development of a national strategy for the management of the country's elephants.

Rhinos

For a number of years WWF has provided support for the conservation of black rhinos in the range states of the region, namely Kenya and Tanzania. In Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service was provided with financial and technical support throughout the reporting period for the establishment of rhino monitoring systems, the translocation of breeding rhinos between protected areas, the ear notching of rhinos and the implantation of micro-chips and transmitters into rhino horns. Rhino protection services were provided with transport and,

following an upsurge of rhino poaching in 2002, the rangers of the Tsavo East National Park were given additional field equipment and training. With support from WWF, the Kenya Wildlife Service developed and finally launched a comprehensive strategy for the management and conservation of the black rhino in the country. The overall goal of this strategy is to increase the black rhino numbers by at least 5 % per annum reaching 500 by 2005; 650 by 2010 and 1000 by 2020. By December 2003, Kenya had recorded a growth rate of 3.12% in its black rhino population, with a national total of 458 animals.

Between 2000 and 2005, the WWF-supported project managed to accomplish a number of activities in the areas of training, research and studies, field interventions and others. Thirty-seven rhinos were trans-located and twenty-one had their ears notched.

The following training programmes were organised:

- Body condition assessment of rhinos;
- Photographic recognition of individual rhinos;
- Scene of crime training for field officers;
- Identification of rhino horn and its derivatives;
- Rhino horn stockpile management;
- Implanting microchips;



ABOVE: Crops destroyed by elephants.
BELOW: Elephant monitoring watch tower.



ABOVE: Human injuries from wild animal attack.

BELOW: Chilli-oil-tobacco rope fencing.

- Ear notching;
- Vegetation monitoring and browse quality and quantity assessment; and
- Assessment and evaluation of potential sanctuaries.

In the areas of research and studies, a survey of the rhino population in the Aberdares national park was undertaken with the establishment of a photo ID kit. New rhino areas were identified and a vegetation monitoring programme to establish carrying capacity of sites was put in place. Other activities included:

- Provision of monitoring and surveillance equipment;
- Infrastructure support;
- Site specific action planning;
- De-snaring exercise;
- Movement of competing browsers out of a rhino sanctuary; and
- Provision of field camping equipment for rhino rangers.

In Tanzania, WWF provided technical and funding support for the development of a national rhino conservation strategy as well as for monitoring and protection of black rhino in the eastern sector of the Selous Game Reserve. Here, small and highly elusive populations of rhino were shown to be surviving successfully and breeding, giving hope for the future revival of this once-famous rhino sanctuary.

Gorillas and Chimpanzees

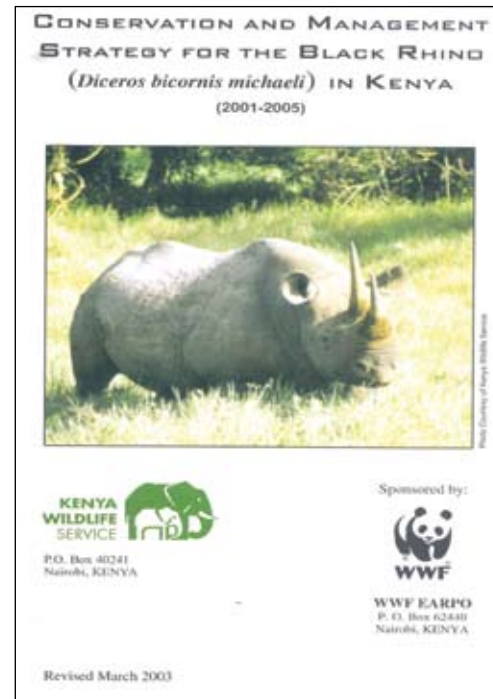
WWF's greatest success with the conservation of key species in eastern Africa has undoubtedly been its strong support for the conservation of the mountain gorilla, through the partnerships with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI), in the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP). The coalition provides direct support to ICCN (DRC), ORTPN (Rwanda) and UWA (Uganda), the three national agencies in charge of Protected Areas in the respective countries. The support is in various areas, ranging from institutional review, equipment and logistics, training, eco-tourism, community conservation and regional monitoring. The development and support to transboundary collaboration is a prominent activity of IGCP; existing agreements range from transboundary meetings and joint patrols to joint planning at the Directorate level and, more recently, at the Ministerial level where the three countries formally engaged towards the development of a transboundary conservation area.

An evaluation undertaken at the end of 2001 showed the IGCP to have been the most important factor in the continuing survival of the mountain gorilla. The programme, with great skill and determination, was able to keep the protected area authorities of the DRC,

Rwanda and Uganda collaborating closely together, despite the political and social upheavals that have afflicted the Albertine Rift for the past decade. The IGCP maintained constant channels of substantial support to these conservation partners in the field, enabling even the besieged park authorities in the Virunga National Park to continue functioning.

Throughout the mountain gorilla ranges, gorilla populations were constantly monitored and protected and increasing numbers of tourists were enabled to visit these precious animals. Rising tourism revenues encouraged the host governments to strengthen their management of the gorillas and many local people benefited from new employment opportunities. Education programmes, such as PEVi, further encouraged local people to conserve these animals and new strategies were launched to reduce conflicts between gorillas and their human neighbours.

The Human-Gorilla Conflict Resolution programme (HuGO) aims to increase the level of community support for gorilla conservation by monitoring gorilla group movements, and responding whenever gorillas move out of the park boundaries. HuGo activities include support for community volunteer Gorilla Monitoring and Response Teams (GMRTs), which follow gorillas whenever they range outside park



boundaries and, when possible, gently chase them out of fields and harm's way. As GMRTs are a community institution, unpaid by the park, the project has addressed sustainability by providing technical assistance and start-up grants to assist the groups to launch income-generating activities to provide alternate remuneration to GMRT volunteers. In addition, the project has focused on the removal of plant species that attract gorillas outside the parks and the promotion of plant/crop species that are non-palatable to gorillas. The project has also trained park staff and community members on rules for behaviour in order to

minimize behavioural disturbance and risk of attack when in proximity to gorillas, as well as to minimize the risk of disease transmission from humans to gorillas, and vice-versa.

Through the implementation of the Buffer Zone management for Human-Gorilla Conflict in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park project, the community benefits by way of reduced crop raiding incidences, and have acquired more knowledge in skills in crop and animal husbandry. The relationship between the park management and the community has also improved.

A further, crucially important factor in the ongoing success of the mountain gorillas programme has been the tremendous courage of the park personnel responsible for protecting them. Through political chaos and social upheaval, park rangers continued to patrol diligently and to tackle highly dangerous and armed poachers. Tragically, a number of rangers -mostly in DRC- were killed during anti-poaching operations. Tributes were paid to the great courage and dedication of these late rangers. Without such dedicated protectors, the future for the mountain gorillas would be extremely bleak.

Although some mountain gorillas were lost to disease and to poaching, the overall moun-

tain gorilla population increased to a total of 695 individuals in June 2004 from 625 in 1989. While mountain gorillas did well during the period, lowland gorilla populations in the DRC were decimated by unchecked hunting for bushmeat. Marauding bands of soldiers, bandits and poachers killed many lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and elephants in Kahuzi-Biega National Park. They also killed a number of park rangers. In 2005, WWF and WCS joined the park authorities at the start of a campaign to regain control of this important conservation area.

Chimpanzee populations received protection in many parts of the Albertine Rift, including

the Bwindi NP, Kayoha Kitomi FR, Volcano NP, Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga NP, often in tandem with gorilla conservation operations. Surveys were initiated in the Virunga Mountains to map populations of chimpanzees. The Virunga National Park received 105,334 visitors earning the country \$11,906,766 in foreign exchange during the period 1974 to 2005. In 2005 10,641 tourists visited the 6 major tourist sites in Rwanda.

Through the effort of the WWF Albertine Rift Montane Forests Ecoregion Programme, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) as well as joint projects with other partners, the populations of mountain gorillas

increased in the cross-boundary habitats, showing the continuing success of collaborative monitoring and protection operations.

Turtles

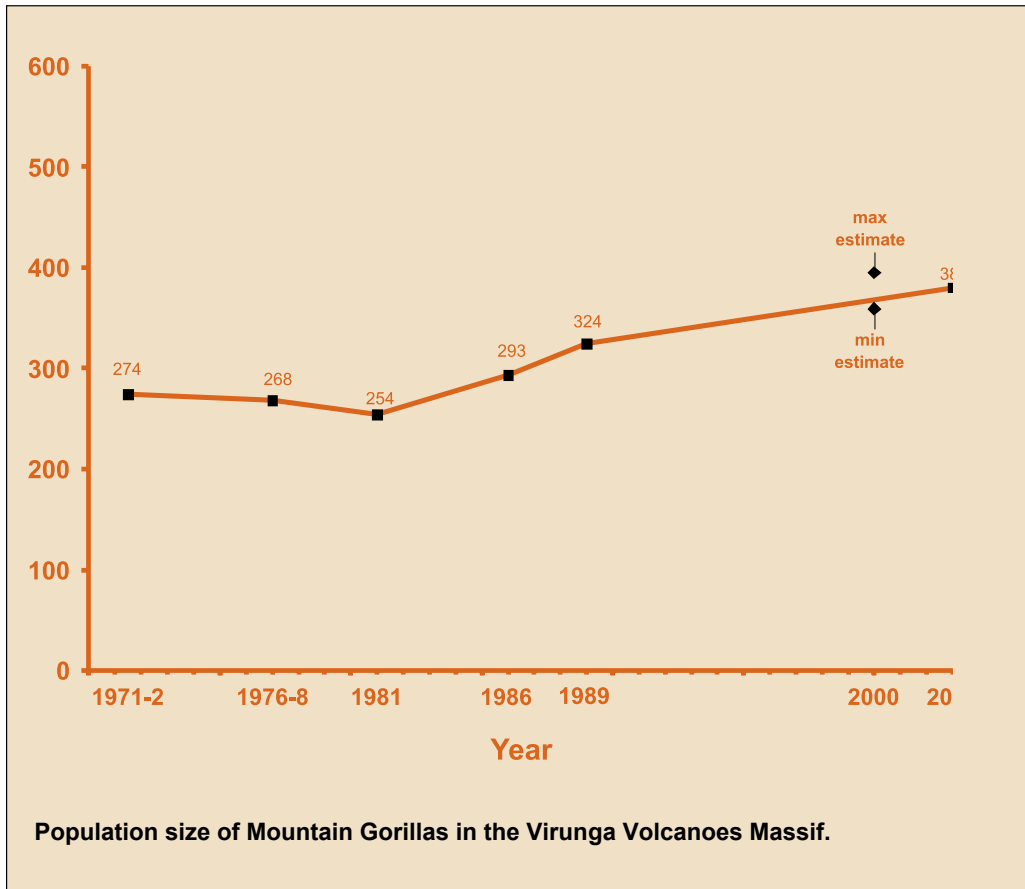
Far away from the forests, WWF continued to build a turtle conservation programme in the Eastern African Marine Ecoregion. Five of the seven global marine turtle species known to date are found along the East African coast, of which three (3) breed and nest in Kiunga Marine National Reserve beaches. These are the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The Green turtle is the dominant one in Kiunga.



Okapi – Kwitonda Group in Rwanda. (IGCP / M. Gray)



Community members from Nteko and Rubuguli parishes during negotiations on roles and responsibilities in Buffer Zone management



A marine turtle conservation strategy for the ecoregion was developed, while a number of site-based turtle conservation projects were supported. Nesting turtles were protected, monitored and tagged in the Mafia Island Marine Park and in the Kiunga Marine Reserve. Turtle nests and hatchlings were

monitored and protected at these sites, with the local people receiving training to carry out these operations. Survival rates of nests and hatchlings improved at most sites, especially at those where local people participated enthusiastically in the programme. Each year, over 100 nests are verified and successfully

protected and over 10,000 green turtle hatchlings successfully emerge and enter the sea, in Kiunga.

In Kiunga, the breeding season for turtles is May to September. The Kiunga marine turtle conservation programme was mainly set up to protect turtles nesting on KMNRR beaches as well as at sea. Activities include sea and beach patrols with KWS and Fisheries Department to protect and monitor nests, foraging grounds, migratory behaviour, effects and threats of pollution on their habitats as well as integrating coral reef monitoring with turtle conservation. The use of GIS as a conservation tool is also applied in turtle conservation where GIS information is used in producing nesting maps, sightings and mortalities as well as the location of tagged turtles.

In the far flung areas of Rubu and Mambore in the KMNRR, WWF maintains a year-round 24-hour surveillance turtle monitoring outpost. This is the most important turtle nesting beach where over 50% of turtle nests are recorded within KMNRR. The out-post enables patrols on adjacent beaches and sea area to record turtle nesting as well as feeding and mating activity. These patrols are a joint venture between WWF and the local community whereby local youths are initiated into conservation of turtles and other environmental concerns such as collection of beach litter (flip-flop) that

impede female turtles coming to nest, as well as emerging hatchlings. During the peak nesting season (April to August) beach patrols are conducted day and night to ensure no nests or female turtles are overlooked. This monitoring has been so effective such that no predation of nests has been observed at Rubu and the adjacent islands.

In 2005, WWF funded the Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (KESCOM) to carry out research on trade in turtles. The project, known as Survey in Trade in Turtle Products and Consumption Patterns, revealed that while nesting turtles are receiving some protection, out at sea the mortality due to drowning in fishing nets is increasing, as a result of rising levels of overall fishing activities.



Nesting statistics for the years 2003-2005 nesting seasons.

Moreover, the trade and consumption of turtle products in Kenya is rampant, despite protective legislation and international agreements.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change was not a priority for EARPO. The office, however, participated in a Eastern and Southern Africa regional workshop on the effects of climate change on forests and a climate change vulnerability study was carried out in Tanzania.

TOXICS

Although toxics had not been a priority for EARPO during the earlier years covered by this review, a new programme pertinent to toxics issues in Africa was developed under the Global Toxics Programme and became operational in late 2005. The WWF network selected EARPO as the programme office to host the pilot phase of the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP).

The ASP is a multi-stakeholder programme which aims at cleaning up obsolete pesticide stockpiles in Africa, preventing future toxic threats from such stockpiles, and protecting human health and the environment. It expects to do this by providing training and capacity building to governments and establishing a strong public-private NGO partnership.

Virtually every African country has stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and associated wastes that have accumulated over periods as long as 50 years. At least 50,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides and severely contaminated soil have accumulated in African countries. These pesticides pose serious threats to the health of both rural and urban populations, especially the poorest of the poor, and contribute to land and water degradation. The stockpiles consist of toxic pesticides and associated contaminated materials. Many of the waste mixtures contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs)-a growing concern and priority for the international community. These toxic wastes must be located and safely removed from the African environment while measures are put in place to minimize reliance on pesticides, and manage pesticides better.

POLICY

During the period under review, EARPO started implementing its cross-cutting Policy Strategy. The following issues were tackled:

- Mainstreaming of poverty-environment considerations into relevant macroeconomic policies (especially PRSPs/Economic Recovery Strategies) and national development plans in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.
- Support to the development and implementation of policy, legal and



institutional frameworks for conserving biodiversity and improving livelihoods in Kenya. The most notable are the Water Act, Environmental Management and Coordination Act, Wildlife Act, and the Forest Policy and legislation.

- Initiated the process of developing criteria and standards for forest certification to enhance sustainable forest management in Kenya.
- In collaboration with DFID, put in place a programme to strengthen public private partnerships in enhancing environmental governance.
- Facilitated training opportunities of WWF programme staff, government officers and partner national CSOs in policy analysis, policy implementation monitoring (including lesson learning) and policy advocacy.

- Launched production of policy advocacy materials especially policy briefs on topical issues.
- Contributed to the East Africa Community efforts directed towards developing a Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management.

Capacity building

WWF invested considerable resources in building the capacity of partners in Eastern Africa to manage and conserve biodiversity and to utilize natural resources sustainably.

Training courses in integrated conservation and development programme (ICDP) management were devised, launched and supported at a training centre in Arusha, Tanzania, through a partnership between WWF, CARE and GEF. Training in ICDP management was also given to partners in the Albertine Rift.

Partners in the EAME benefited from training in the management of marine protected areas.

The resource management capacities of communities were enhanced in all project areas supported by the WWF-EARPO, through the provision of a wide range of training workshops and courses. The inclusion of communities at all stages in the management of conservation programmes is a fundamental strategy for WWF.

A number of WWF-EARPO staff attended management training courses at the WWF College in the Netherlands.

Partnerships

WWF-EARPO continues to strengthen its partnerships with key institutions in the region especially Kenya Wildlife Service, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, Kenya's National Environment Management Authority, Uganda National Environment Management Authority and other partner NGOs especially AWF, EAWLS and community groups. Partnerships with DFID, UNEP, UNDP and DANIDA were initiated.

An Eastern Africa Conservation Partnership Forum was established in April 2002, to feed into the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. EARPO received good publicity and exposure at the summit and a number of important conservation advances were launched. The World Parks Congress in 2003 also enabled WWF-EARPO to publicise its conservation agenda and programmes.

The objective of the Conservation Partnership Forum was to bring together, WWF-EARPO's conservation partners in the region to share and exchange experiences and ideas. It was envisioned that this forum would promote

conservation dialogue and strengthen partnerships across the region, as well as clarify the most pressing issues requiring intervention. The forum was also to strive to engage donors to dialogue with the conservation partners, in recognition of their needs for secure long-term funding for conservation action. In addition, the forum was to accord WWF a unique opportunity to exhibit her conservation initiatives in the region, enhance WWF's profile and brand and clarify WWF's role and public perception.

During the period under review, WWF Eastern Africa Corporate Club was formed with an initial membership 12 corporate entities.

The Club's Mau Forest project grew from strength to strength with a slight change in its focus as has been described in the sections under the "Mau Forest Landscape Restoration Project"

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education and awareness activities were important components of all projects and programmes supported by EARPO, delivering conservation messages and trying to change the behaviour of people towards their environment and their use of natural resources.

Two long-running environmental education programmes continued to reach thousands of people in Tanzania (TEEP) and in the Virunga Mountains of the DRC (PEVI), while a new environmental education programme was launched around the shores of Lake Victoria. These programmes are described below:

The Tanzania Environmental Education Programme (TEEP)

The Tanzania Environmental Education Programme (TEEP) is a cross cutting programme aimed at facilitating and supporting biome specific programmes/projects of WWF in Tanzania. The programme aims broadly to contribute to the reduction of environmental degradation and to poverty alleviation (among others) in Tanzania by enabling people to participate in the sustainable management of natural resources through the acquisition of additional knowledge, change of attitude,



Participants at the World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa, September 2003.

environmental understanding and skills (ability to perform).

Achievements:

- TEEP has been involved in training activities which entailed training trainers in sustainable environmental management skills. Village leaders and CBOs from the WWF project areas have benefited from these trainings and have started making informed decisions and taking actions to manage resources sustainably.
- Primary school teachers are incorporating the environment and sustainable development agenda within their teaching practices after training as well as the provision of teaching and learning materials.
- Eight environmental education booklets have been produced for use by schools and communities and these materials are currently being prepared for adoption by the Ministry of Education as reference materials for primary schools

Environmental Program around Virunga National Park (PEVi)

The WWF PEvI started off as an environmental education programme for the people living around the park. Now in its third phase the programme is working within the park and also implementing sustainable management of natural resources in close cooperation with the ICCN.

Launch of the WWF Eastern Africa Corporate Club



Dr Claude Martin, former Director General of WWF International, makes a point at the Eastern Africa Conservation Partnership Forum.

Achievements/activities within the Environmental Education department have included:

- The production of an educational magazine Kacheche, up to 300,000 copies of which are distributed and which have enhanced conservation education amongst the children.
- Awareness activities in the villages and schools including the use of radio and television.
- Given the fact that the area has faced a lot of conflict, sensitization campaigns and conflict resolution sessions have also been done.
- Training of people from local communities as forest guards as well as voluntary extension officers.

Challenges:

- Environmental education is not integrated into the school and college programmes
- Lack of teaching and learning materials for environmental education.

Lake Victoria Catchment Environmental Education

programme (LVCEEP)

The Lake Victoria Catchment Environmental Education programme started in 2003. This is a regional environmental education programme working in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The programme is funded by WWF Sweden/SIDA for an initial 3 year period. The first year was devoted to an inception phase in Tanzania, which was subsequently upscaled to Kenya and Uganda.

The project is focused in Musoma and Tarime Districts in north-western Tanzania, in Nandi, Homa Bay and the Transmara districts in Kenya and within the Katonga basin in the south western part of Uganda.

The following are some of the achievements of the programme:

- Baseline surveys: Baseline information was collected through a baseline survey in Tanzania, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Kenya and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey in Uganda.
- Training for primary school teachers; School teachers in five primary schools in Tanzania, and in 8 primary schools in Kenya have been trained in environmental education processes and methodologies, while this is still to happen in Uganda.

- Training workshops for Teacher trainers: The programme is also working with tutors in teacher training colleges focusing on two in Tanzania, while in Kenya four have been identified and contacts have been made in Uganda. It is hoped that the tutors will use the environment within their teaching thus influencing the future teachers who are their pupils.
- Training for Community members: Environmental education also extends to working with communities particularly within the project areas and the project is working with village elders, community groups which include women group and offering training and support for community projects.
- Greening Initiatives and support to Environmental Clubs: All schools in the target areas have received some training for their clubs and are also involved in some form of greening activities.

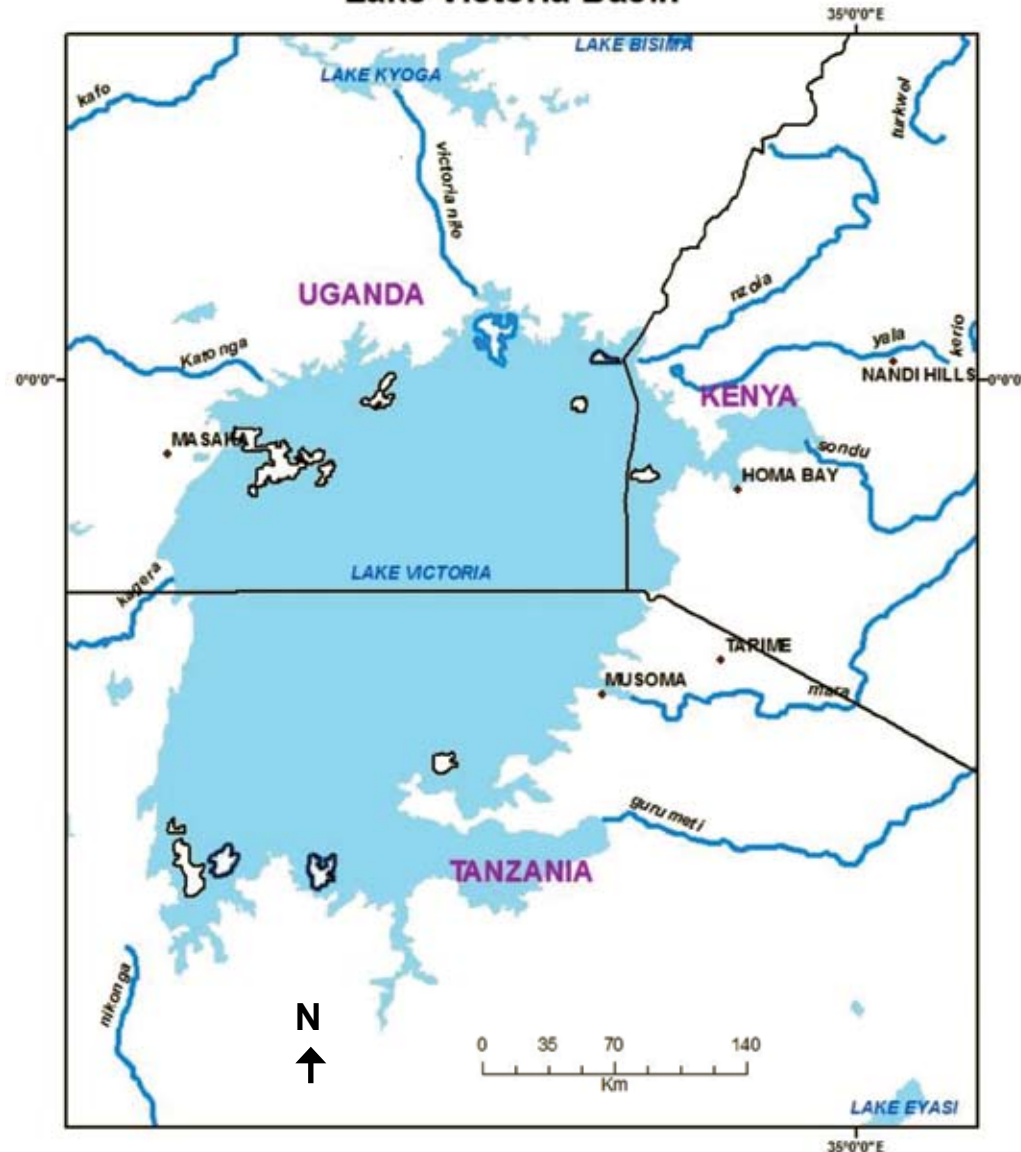
Challenges:

- This is a transboundary programme working in 3 countries with different education systems as well as village organization. The various countries also have different policies on environmental education in schools.
- The area of operation is very large and the project can only start in smaller target

- Catchment communities do not always see the benefit of the lake especially if it is far away. The process of education and demonstration therefore becomes even more important.

There is a lot of concern in the wider region on the health of Lake Victoria. A lot of research work and scientific studies are going on under the aegis of the Lake Victoria Environment Management Programme (LVEMP).

Lake Victoria Basin



“Many benefits have been experienced in our school as a result of the WWF environmental education programme. We have reduced the areas for sweeping through the greening programme where we have planted grass and provided gravel for the paths. This has reduced soil erosion as well as dust and dirt within the classroom and atmosphere”

--Mrs Ephrasa Makame,
Headmistress
Kirumi Primary School,
Musoma, Tanzania

Students at Ggulama Primary discuss some wetland plants. Masaka, Uganda.



THE YEARS AHEAD

The conservation activities the results of which are summarised in this report were undertaken within the framework of WWF-EARPO's 2000-2005 Conservation Strategic Plan. The plan lists eight objectives (four biome or ecosystem based - forests, freshwater, marine and savannahs and four cross cutting objectives - sustainable use, environmental awareness, capacity building and policy).

With the coming into effect of the WWF One Global Conservation Programme (OGP), a new WWF-EARPO Conservation Action Plan has been prepared for the period 2005-2010. This Conservation Action Plan is designed to deliver towards the global targets and milestones by adapting WWF global approaches to the ecological, political, and socio-economic conditions found in the Eastern African region. The Plan also identifies key actions to be implemented in the Eastern African region in order to contribute to the One Global Conservation Programme targets.

For example, WWF-EARPO's forests programme objectives are imbedded in a longer term vision for forests in Eastern Africa which is that "Forests of Eastern Africa are conserved, managed and sustainably utilized for the benefit of present and future generations". Specific objectives for the next 20 years to attain this vision are:

- Maintain forest cover and quality in protected areas and reduce the rate of deforestation in selected, non-gazetted forest areas;

- Improve the management of forests by building the capacity of Forest Management Authorities, communities living in or around forest areas and other stakeholders; and
- Ensure that forests sustainably provide goods and services for the benefit of dependant communities.

The WWF-EARPO freshwater programme objective also feeds into the global freshwater programme vision implying that "selected key freshwater ecosystems in priority ecoregions and river basins of Eastern Africa are conserved while ensuring adequate availability of freshwater resources for nature as well as for present and future generations". Considering the extent of the region and local demand for freshwater resources management, WWF-EARPO is focusing on four geographic areas (Albertine Rift Ecoregion, Gregory Rift Valley Lakes, Mara River Basin and Greater Ruaha River Basin) and four thematic areas (climate change, water policies, capacity building and environmental education).

Specific objectives of the WWF-EARPO Oceans and Coasts Programme are:

- Protection of priority seascapes through a network of marine protected areas and to reduce the declining trend of species of special concern;



- Ensuring that enabling policy and legal environment for marine resource management are in place; and
- Ensuring effective and meaningful participation of communities in marine resource management to facilitate social development in priority sites.

It is planned that the Kiunga Marine National Reserve Conservation and Development Project in Kenya be up-scaled to a seascape programme covering the entire Lamu Archipelago which stretches from the Kenya-Somalia border in the north to the Tana River Delta in the south and incorporating the Northern Banks and the Doodori channels. Also under consideration is a Tana-Malindi-Mida Seascape which stretches between Tana and Malindi Districts of the coast province of Kenya and includes the Tana River Delta, Sabaki River Estuary and associated dunes, springs and marshes, the Mida Creek and the Malindi/Watamu marine protected areas.

The WWF Eastern Africa Species Programme will continue to ensure that the populations of at least three flagship species groups increase or stabilise at biologically viable levels and their habitats safeguarded.

WWF-EARPO has moved from a project to programme approach in which programmes focus on addressing biodiversity loss at an eco-regional level. Cross-cutting activities are

integral in the above themes. However, for policy the regional objective is that by 2010, at least 5 countries within Eastern Africa region and 2 regional policy and institutional frameworks are supportive of sustainable development and equitable sharing of the benefits from natural resources. The policy programme would result in a shift from a focus on direct influence on conservation and natural resource management related policies to a holistic approach that in addition looks at the relevant macroeconomic and sectoral policies that have or are likely to have an impact on the management of the environment. Such policies include those relating to agriculture, trade, investment and PRSPs among others.

In line with the broad WWF objectives, WWF-EARPO recognises the fact that no single organisation has all the expertise and experiences to solve conservation problems in a truly integrated way that is required to effectively address underlying causes. WWF-EARPO, therefore, continues to strengthen partnerships with key institutions in the region especially protected areas authorities, environment management authorities, civil society organisations, other conservation organisations and community groups.

We are convinced that even greater successes will be achieved from the implementation of the 2005-2010 Conservation Action Plan.

Dr Kanyamibwa (right) presenting the WWF College certificate for conservation leadership to Mr Victor Keraro, then the EARPO Director of Finance and Administration



We note with satisfaction, WWF conservation efforts in three of the world's priority ecoregions which are found in eastern Africa, and in other areas such as the Maasai Mara National Reserve, the eastern arm of the Rift Valley, the Eastern Arc montane forests, the Ethiopian highland forests and the eastern Miombo woodlands found in Tanzania and Mozambique. We have also noted that this Conservation Action Plan, the primary objective of which is to enable WWF EARPO consolidate the gains that it has made in conserving fauna and flora of Eastern Africa, as well as opening new conservation opportunities in the next five years, is designed also to deliver towards the global targets and milestones set by WWF in response to the Millennium Development Goals and other global developmental and conservation aspirations. With the expertise and teamwork available within the organization, the targets and milestones set in this Action Plan will be met.

--Dr. Manu Chandaria and Ms Achieng Abura (Goodwill Ambassadors of the WWF Eastern Africa Corporate Club)

ACRONYMS

ARMFE	Albertine Rift Montane Forest Ecoregion
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DfID	Department for International Development (U.K.)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EACFE	East Africa Coastal Forest Ecoregion
EAME	Eastern African Marine Ecoregion
EARPO	WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office
EAWS	East African Wildlife Society
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of UN
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GLOWS	Global Water for Sustainability
HEC	Human Elephant Conflict
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
MS-TCDC	MS Training Centre for Development and Cooperation
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme
NEPAD	New Partnerships for Africa's development
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OGP	WWF's One Global Programme
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
TPO	Tanzania Programme Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WEHAB	Water, Environment, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity
WWF-AMP	WWF Africa & Madagascar Programme
WWF-EARPO	WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

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