



The Kesho Trust

**Workshops in Saadani National Park with Linking Tourism & Conservation
for community centered learning from protected area tourism solutions**

Contract Report

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**IUCN contract with Kesho Trust
UNDP GEF Project: Inspiring Protected Area Solutions (GEF - IPAS)**

Introduction

In 2013 the Kesho Trust initiated a project called Promoting Environmental Conservation and Cooperation [PECC] involving 6 villages adjacent to Saadani National Park, Tanzania. The project was responding to issues emerging from the establishment of the park in 2005 and the very difficult relationships that resulted. PECC aimed to facilitate learning within the communities and promote an open dialogue with park staff regarding the issues between the parties especially the livelihood struggles associated with diminished resource productivity and reduced access to subsistence resources.

In September of 2015, staff of Kesho Trust and IUCN conducted a series of “solutioning” meetings with representatives from the park and all six villages participating in the PECC project, to identify successful actions taken through the PECC project. The results were documented as a solution case study and published on the Panorama web platform, one of the key outcome products of the GEF-IPAS project. During the meetings, PECC participants were introduced to and expressed considerable interest in other African solutions from the Panorama platform, which showcase successful community engagement in PA tourism operations.

This contract supported follow up workshops linked to the PECC objectives by providing the opportunity to advance the understanding of other African examples of community based tourism enterprises, identifying the factors involved in their success, and exploring the potential of replicating the lessons from such community based tourism solutions as future livelihood options in the Saadani area. Beyond the local expertise within the Kesho Trust, the workshops also drew on the experience of members of the Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C) network in other Africa contexts and beyond.

The IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme has provided support through this contract as part of the UNDP GEF Project: Inspiring Protected Area Solutions (GEF - IPAS). The overall objective of the GEF – IPAS project is: “to strengthen the capacity for effective management and equitable governance of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas”. This contract has contributed to achieving that objective through its focus on capacity development and knowledge sharing specifically between community level participants and professionals and practitioners in the field of community based tourism and conservation. It also contributed to the aim of the Panorama initiative by facilitating networking among practitioners around successful approaches to improve conservation and promoting new solutions based on existing experiences. Furthermore the current activities provided a valuable opportunity for IUCN to build on last year’s “solutioning” workshops in a site specific grassroots context.

Program

The work under this contract was designed to support community-centred learning in nature related community based tourism. The following four activities were implemented each with specific objectives contributing to this central purpose:

1. preparatory meetings [May 15 – 23, 2016] - to generate individual community experience and ideas to bring to a community based tourism training workshop;
 - 6 preparatory meetings were held – one in each of the participating PECC villages
 - a total of people 55 attended the meetings – Mkange [11], Mkwaja [8], Saadani [7], Matipwili [9], Gongo [10] and Buyuni [10]
 - the meetings were led by Peter Millanga, PECC Project Coordinator with the Kesho Trust and assisted by a local Kesho Trust volunteer, Penina Mairo
 - at these meetings each committee selected two representatives to attend the community based tourism training workshop and the workshop with visitors from LT&C

2. community based tourism training workshop [May 24 – 25, 2016] - to provide a learning opportunity for PECC committee members concerning the principles of and requirements for successful community based tourism;
 - the community based tourism training workshop was developed by the Kesho Trust and delivered by Dr. Agnes Sirima, a Kesho Trust Director and faculty member of Sokoine University of Agriculture
 - other members of the Kesho Trust attended and supported the event – Peter Millanga, PECC Project Coordinator; Karen Clyde, Kesho Trust Canada Director; and, Kesho Trust volunteers Penina Mairo and Matthias Clyde-Lien
 - 12 village participants attended – two from each of the villages participating in the PECC project

3. workshops with the LT&C visitors [May 29 – 30, 2016]: to share experience and opportunities of community based tourism among local PECC committee representatives, representatives of the tourism sector in the Saadani area and the visiting LT&C members; and,
 - participants of the community based tourism training workshop also attended the workshop with LT&C visitors
 - in addition, guests from LT&C and IUCN attended: Sergio Chiarandini; Iris Carla De Jesus; Manuel Bollmann; Nishi Asdal; Christian Neumann; Greg Bakunzi; Peter Prokosch and Marie Fischborn

- a second workshop with the guests from LT&C and IUCN was held with representatives of the tourism sector in the Saadani area
 - in both cases the workshops provided a mutual learning opportunity where visitors could appreciate the strengths and challenges of the Saadani area, local participants could learn about successes in other locations and both could establish personal links to strengthen addressing tourism related issues and realizing potential through ongoing activities in the future
4. follow up village meetings [June 23 – 30, 2016] – to provide feedback and consolidate learning among all PECC committee members in each of the villages from the previous learning opportunities.
- a total of people 59 attended the meetings – Mkange [11], Mkwaja [9], Saadani [9], Matipwili [10], Gongo [10] and Buyuni [10]
 - the meetings were led by Peter Millanga, PECC Project Coordinator with the Kesho Trust and assisted by a local Kesho Trust volunteer, Penina Mairo

Results

The activities supported through this contract were coordinated and led by Kesho Trust directors, staff and volunteers. Regular reporting on activities is part of the PECC project process and specific to the current activities Kesho Trust representatives were asked to provide details on how the participants perceived the most important aspects of the training and discussion, the contribution of such learning and discussions to the work of their committees and the key actions that were identified as priorities for follow up from the events. The perspectives of the participants on each of these areas are presented below.

Important topics of learning and discussion

The village committees of PECC have been active in developing a better understanding of conservation approaches and management actions that impact on their livelihood activities, thereby affecting the relationship they have with Saadani National Park management. Tourism has been one aspect of this process. However, this set of workshops provided a focus on community based tourism that allowed a more detailed investigation of ideas and actions and underscored the link between conservation and tourism. Participants appreciated the opportunity to identify and map tourism resources specific to their communities [see Appendix 1]. This activity reinforced the value of the specific community resources for tourism that each community has and participants were anxious to have others, both in their villages and among other stakeholders, recognize these values and support their development. They were especially appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about the principles involved in successful

community based tourism enterprises and to see how such principles had been applied in other examples. Learning from the experience of others is very important especially where the participants can appreciate and understand the natural and cultural context of others. Thus the African examples discussed were most helpful. Another important learning and focus for discussion within the village committees was the link between community based tourism and Kihembe. As a project of SANA and Kesho Trust, partnered with the village of Mkange, Kihembe is a resource for all the communities of the area to continue the learning process about conservation and sustainable livelihoods as well as being in itself an example of community based tourism. It is planned as a residential environmental learning centre that will provide courses for a wide range of groups from around Tanzania and international as well as serve as a research base and visitor reception area for the national park and surrounding area. Participants in these workshops were interested to learn more about the centre and how its activities could support the development of community based tourism.

Contributions to work of committees

The topic of community based tourism is a very important aspect of the work of the PECC committees. It represents an important livelihood alternative that is compatible with the conservation mandate of the park and can contribute to building more cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships between the park and the surrounding communities. PECC participants found these workshops very useful as a way to learn from successful examples elsewhere, especially those from South Africa and Rwanda. They also used the opportunity to share their own ideas and get feedback from others with very different experience. They have been interested in finding income generating opportunities related to park visitors in their villages and these discussions provided them with many ideas and examples to take back to the discussions in the village committees. Critical in the discussion was their better appreciation for the principles of successful community based tourism enterprises. Ensuring that all their committee members understand and strive to address these principles in the implementation of local enterprises will be a big challenge in the responsibilities of the committees. Attending representatives were also very concerned about the degree to which the ideas, discussion and engagement they have experienced in these events can reach people in the communities not just the committee. It was very clear to participants that there is much work to be done to promote these ideas widely in their communities since the benefits similarly need to be felt community wide

Follow up priorities

The enthusiasm by PECC committee members for the topics of the series of workshops was evident throughout and three areas of action emerged as important ways to follow up:

1. community discussion and planning: developing a community level plan for tourism enterprises was recognized as critical to guide the effective prioritization and implementation of activities. However, planning should not substitute for more specific action and participants felt that identifying and implementing one leading example could be a stimulus for further community developments. Planning does encompass other activities that were considered extremely important including discussing the ideas generated at the workshops with their committees and their communities to ensure a broadly based buy in and ownership of the initiative by the community at large.
2. partnership: participants in the PECC committees recognized that embarking on community based tourism activity was not something they could undertake themselves. Rather it must be a collaborative effort that involves some other key partners. First they felt the discussions in the communities needed to ensure that village councils be actively engaged in tourism planning and development, although they expressed a caution that such engagement should not take on political characteristics. A second partnership that needs to be cultivated is with the private sector and potential investors such as existing tourism operators. The third partnership involved collaboration with the national park. Participants recognized that marketing of local attractions should most effectively be linked to the established visibility of the national park which has the potential to add significantly to community based enterprise success.
3. fundraising: finally there is a need to place significant effort into raising start-up capital. Specific actions in this regard were not identified but this should be discussed at the committee level in establishing individual community based tourism plans.

Implications for Kesho Trust

The discussion during the workshops and meetings identified a number of priority actions for the PECC committees with significant implications for Kesho Trust. As the contact points within each local community on the subject of community based tourism, the PECC committees will provide leadership and be responsible for engaging with the broader community. The implications for the Kesho Trust reflect the need to continue the PECC process of capacity building for community participants and the development of collaborative relationships with national park management. Such implications suggest a more intensive and focused program of

mentoring and capacity building by the Kesho Trust with the participating communities beyond the scope of the PECC project.

Key areas of priority action that were identified where support from Kesho Trust would be beneficial include:

- ongoing engagement with the PECC process within participating communities and the potential expansion of the program to other communities adjacent to Saadani National Park
- identifying and promoting future cooperative ventures between local communities and the park through the Panorama program and network
- developing community based tourism plans for each community
- building partnerships with investors
- promote local attractions through liaison with the park and other avenues
- fundraising for start-up capital

The workshop discussions also highlighted the importance of the link between this initiative and the Kihembe Environmental Learning Centre. Kihembe provides a foundation for the ongoing planning, training and capacity building that will be necessary in the implementation of community based tourism in the area. By developing and implementing training courses, holding planning workshops and facilitating partnership development activities at Kihembe, the centre can make an important contribution to the coordination of community based tours development in the area.

Kesho Trust Partnerships

This series of workshops has developed through and been supported by the IUCN and its Inspiring Protected Area Solutions project as well as through the partnership with Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C). These partnerships provide opportunities for continued liaison and support since both organizations have interest and expertise in the field of community based conservation that could contribute significantly to the follow-up activities identified above. In particular drawing on the expertise from LT&C members in Eastern and Southern Africa to further the training of local community people as well as assist in the business planning for specific community based tourism enterprises would be extremely helpful and much appreciated. Similarly extensive conservation and tourism experience, workshop development with wide networks of technical experts and specialized training programs available through the IUCN network could be brought to Kihembe to support the local communities in achieving their goals. The Kesho Trust already participates in collaborative conservation and livelihood networks and expanding these connections through extended partnerships with IUCN and LT&C could greatly assist in the implementation of our ongoing program of capacity building and support to communities of the Saadani National Park area.

Appendix 1: Community maps of tourism resources





