



Climb 2007

'YOUTH EMPOWERMENT'

Concept Overview
November 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary..... 3

1.0 Introduction..... 4

1.1 Background..... 4

1.2 Strategic Approach..... 4

2.0 Projects..... 5

3.0 Expected Outcomes..... 7

4.0 Support..... 7

5.0 Calendar of Events..... 8

Executive Summary

The Kilimanjaro Initiative was founded in 2005 by Tim Challen, after he was shot during an armed robbery in Nairobi, Kenya. Following extensive surgery and a long period of recovery back home in Switzerland, Tim returned to East Africa with a desire to help create a safer and better urban environment.

The main objective of the Kilimanjaro Initiative is to encourage young people to have self-belief and to assist in providing opportunities that will enable them to take on a constructive role in their communities.

As a key feature of its activities, the initiative organizes an annual ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain on the African continent. The climb exemplifies how sport can be used as a tool towards the development of a community. It does so by bringing together various urban stakeholders, including young people and representatives of the private and public sectors. The mountain reminds participants that in order to overcome difficulty they must understand their environment, unite as a team and persevere.

In addition to creating a very positive spirit of change, the Kilimanjaro Initiative raises funds for projects highlighted by Safer Cities programmes in Kenya and Tanzania. These projects focus on the role youth groups, with their local knowledge, skill and practical experience can play towards the physical, economic and social development of their communities.

The 2007 climb, due to start on 24 February, will focus on youth empowerment, with the aim of describing problems young people face on a daily basis, especially unemployment, and encouraging them to become agents of change. The climb will also be used to build partnerships between youths in the 'northern' and 'southern' hemispheres so that they can exchange experiences and ideas.

Overall, the Kilimanjaro Initiative seeks to be part of a synergy, including other organizations and individuals, that can help provide opportunities for young women and men. The initiative believes it can play an important part in the development of communities in East Africa and beyond.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative has so far garnered support from: UN-HABITAT; United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); United Nations Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace; International Crime Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR); Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities; the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU); and other public/private organizations at the local and national level. The Kilimanjaro Initiative will continue to build on this support and looks forward to creating new partnerships.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In May 2003, Tim Challen was shot during an armed robbery in Nairobi, Kenya. After extensive surgery back home in Switzerland, Tim decided to return to Africa and climb Mount Kilimanjaro as a means of highlighting the problems of crime and encourage people to take on a constructive role in their society. He created the Kilimanjaro Initiative and approached UN-HABITAT Safer Cities programme coordinators for advice.

The Safer Cities programme aims to address the underlying issues contributing to crime, including problems of unemployment, poverty and exclusion. It does so by initiating income generating projects and integrating the youth into the local authority decision-making framework.

Sport is a valuable tool in enhancing youth participation and empowerment. It has been used across the world in various campaigns on issues aimed at development. It is through sports that the youth can be engaged in *inter alia* Crime Prevention Initiatives, HIV/AIDS and Environmental Awareness Campaigns.

The first climb took place in February 2006 and included ten young women and men from disadvantaged communities in Kenya and Tanzania. They reached the summit, determined to prove to themselves and others that hardships can be overcome.

The climb received extensive media coverage and managed to raise funds for community-based projects aimed at crime prevention. Based on the success of the ascent, the Kilimanjaro Initiative has decided to organize an annual event, with the goal of encouraging youths to believe in their capabilities and to engage institutions/organizations in providing the capacities for young people to reach their goals.

1.2 Strategic approach

Youths are the future and the Kilimanjaro Initiative is keen to encourage young people to take part in creating better communities for all. To do this, the Kilimanjaro Initiative takes a three prong approach:

- Sensitize the public on the difficulties to which young people are confronted. These generally include, among others, the problems of unemployment, education and disease.
- Encourage young people to believe in their potential as agents of change in the community at large.
- Engage the public and private sector in giving young people the opportunities they are currently lacking.

2. Projects

In relation to the '2007' climb, under the theme 'Youth Empowerment', the Kilimanjaro Initiative is working on the following seven projects/programmes:

- **Sponsorship of young people to climb Mount Kilimanjaro**
In 2006, ten young people from disadvantaged areas in Kenya and Tanzania participated on the climb. They were a central feature because not only were they representative of the problems endured by young people in disadvantaged communities but they also provided great inspiration to everyone during the climb. In 2007, the initiative aims to have ten young people representing not only Kenya and Tanzania but also other parts of the world.
- **Support of Youth Partnerships**
Based on the above, the Kilimanjaro Initiative wants to help create or support partnerships between young people in the 'southern' and 'northern' hemispheres. This should lead to valuable sharing of experiences and better understanding between different cultures. It can also lead to the creation of a platform through which young people can help define their communities and support one another.
- **Support of Safer Cities programme in Tanzania**
Similar to the 2006 Climb, the Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to raise awareness of the work of Safer Cities in Tanzania and encourage civic responsibility within communities. The 2007 climb will also be used to raise funds through the private and public sector for Safer Cities projects that are specifically aimed at youths in Dar es Salaam and Arusha.

The Tahoyag group in Dar es Salaam is an example of how unemployed youths can unite through a business, building up personal means of subsistence whilst also contributing to the community. Since its creation five years ago, the Tahoyag has opened a handicraft shop and organized several workshops on crime, HIV /AIDS and substance abuse prevention in the community. It has also created a 'sungusungu' (neighborhood watch) group whereby young women and men patrol the community at night to prevent crime.
- **Upgrading of Public Spaces through Safer Nairobi Initiative, Kenya**
The Kilimanjaro Initiative is currently assisting in the renovation of a sports field in Kibera, Nairobi. The space has the potential to act as a major centre point for the community, a place where young people can channel their energies in a positive way and where events, organized through youth-run businesses, can bring residents together. This will help give the community a sense of ownership in the upgraded area.

In partnership with the Safer Nairobi Initiative, the Kilimanjaro Initiative

wants to help generate more funds and financial capacities for similar upgrading of public spaces and social development. Again, key to the projects are young people, whom through their local knowledge, skill and practical experience can help develop a better community for all.

- **Marangu Youth Centre, Tanzania**

The Kilimanjaro Initiative intends to support the community from where it flags off its annual ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. It proposes to do so by assisting the community in building and running a centre dedicated to youths in the region and abroad.

Through this community centre, young people will be able to:

- Receive counseling with regards to social and personal problems.
- Participate in workshops that address environment degradation, substance abuse, crime and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Enroll in classes where they can learn new skills.
- Learn from visiting experts.
- Have access to information, through a library and internet centre.
- Exchange ideas and skills with youths coming from different parts of the world.
- Have access to sport facilities.
- Create their own businesses, with access to a micro credit system, for their personal benefit and that of the Marangu community.

- **Nairobi concert**

In partnership with Street Expressions, the Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to organize and raise funds for a concert in Nairobi, Kenya. The event, due to take place on 3 March 2007, will be dedicated to promoting Youth Empowerment and include entertainment from popular and upcoming Kenyan artists.

The event may also establish a zone where youth groups and other organizations can display stands to promote their activities to the public.

- **Trusts in Kenya and Tanzania**

As part of its plan to expand and reach out to communities throughout Kenya and Tanzania, the Kilimanjaro Initiative is in the process of creating trusts in both countries. These trusts will represent the Kilimanjaro Initiative on a more local standpoint and oversee the running of its activities.

3. Expected Outcomes

With regards to the 2007 climb, the Kilimanjaro Initiative has three main goals:

- Raise awareness, through media and events, towards:
 - The difficulties young people face in their daily lives, especially unemployment.
 - Encouraging young people not to give up and believe in their potential as agents of change.
 - Encouraging civic responsibility throughout the community.
 - Highlighting the projects supported by the Kilimanjaro Initiative.
- Assist in creating synergies between youth groups and private/public organizations towards safer communities with opportunities for all, especially young people.
- Help fundraise more than 75'000 US Dollars towards projects targeted by the Safer Cities programme in Tanzania and the Safer Nairobi Initiative in Kenya, a concert in Nairobi and the sponsorship of youths participating on the climb.

4. Support

The Kilimanjaro Initiative has the support of the following United Nations agencies and organizations: UN-HABITAT; UNEP; International Labour Office; ICTR; UN Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace; UNFCU; Ministry for Local Government, the Republic of Kenya; The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN at Geneva; Ministry for Public Security and Safety of The United Republic of Tanzania; The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the UN at Geneva; City Council of Dar es Salaam; City Council of Nairobi; Municipality of Arusha; Sports Stadia Management Board, Kenya; Sadili Oval Sports Club, Nairobi; UNDUGU Society, Nairobi, Nairobi; Outward Bounds of Kenya Trust; Street Expressions, Nairobi.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative will continue to reinforce links with supporting organizations and look to create new ones, as it aims to be part of a synergy that will lead to better and safer communities for all. Moreover, the Kilimanjaro Initiative will continuously communicate and exchange ideas with youth groups, making them a leading reference point in its objective to help improve the capacities available to young women and men.

5. Calendar of Events

Below is a tentative calendar that the Kilimanjaro Initiative is currently working on:

Date:	Event:
11 February 2007, Sunday	Arrival of youths in Nairobi from ‘northern’ hemisphere
12 February 2007, Monday	Youths from Nairobi (incl. international youths), Dar es Salaam, and Arusha travel to Outward Bounds School in Oloitoktok. Training course begins
19 February 2007, Monday	‘Nairobi’ Press conference Launch of Kilimanjaro song by Gidi Gidi Maji Maji
22 February 2007, Thursday	Outward Bounds course ends. Youths travel from Oloitoktok to Marangu, Kilimanjaro
	All other climbers arrive at Marangu
23 February 2007, Friday	Rest day in Marangu
	Visit of proposed land for Marangu Youth Community Centre
24 February 2007, Saturday	‘Marangu’ Press Conference and Flagging Off event at Marangu Gate
	*Climb begins
25 February 2007, Sunday	Climb (‘Mandara’ climbers return)
26 February 2007, Monday	Climb
27 February 2007, Tuesday	Climb
28 February 2007, Wednesday	Climb ends
	Reception and awards ceremony at Marangu Hotel
01 March 2007, Thursday	Travel to Arusha, overnight stay
02 March 2007, Friday	Travel to Nairobi
03 March 2007, Saturday	Youth Empowerment Concert in Nairobi Press Conference

*the climb has been booked