

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Asian Nature Conservation Foundation
Project Title:	Conservation of the Periyar-Agasthyamalai Corridor in the Southern Western Ghats: Knowledge Generation, Dissemination of Information and Capacity Building for Key Stakeholders
Date of Report:	25 March 2013
Report Author and Contact Information	Dr Narendran Kodandapani naren@ces.iisc.ernet.in

CEPF Region: Western Ghats

Strategic Direction: CEPF Strategic Direction 1: Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.

Grant Amount: US\$79,998

Project Dates: January 1, 2010 – September 30, 2012

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

1. A regular plan, and budgetary provision, incorporated into the Annual Plans of the State Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, for sustained conservation of the critical habitat links of the Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridor.
2. Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund created through a public-private partnership for meeting the expenses of biodiversity monitoring, protection, research in the Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridor.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

1. No real impact was made with reference to budgets with the State Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
2. Conservation Trust Fund not established in the Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridor.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

1. A significantly improved understanding among the State FDs of Kerala and Tamil Nadu of the location of the critical habitat links in the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai landscape and the value in securing them on a sustained basis in partnership with civil society groups and local communities.
2. Establishment of a sustained partnership between the State Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu/ Kerala, scientific NGOs and selected community groups to regularly monitor the status of critical habitat links within the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai landscape (watchdog function).
3. Declaration of some form of legally protected status to the 'ecologically sensitive areas' and 'critical habitat links' identified by the project within the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai landscape.
4. State FDs to develop or have ready access to the technical capacity supported by scientific data to be able to carry out assessments of the impact of development projects proposed to be located within the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai landscape and thereby strengthening official decision making capacity in regard to ecologically sound land use planning.
5. Acceptance of responsibility by regional institutions for forestry research, management and education such as the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) for conducting regular programmes for building biodiversity awareness among key stakeholders including FD field managers, conservation NGOs, local communities and local governments.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

We have identified the location of critical links in the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai in order to improve elephant conservation and biodiversity in general. In addition to Kottavasal a few other sites have been identified for the movement of wildlife in the landscape.

The Tamil Nadu forest department is planning to declare the Theni and Srivilliputtur divisions as a tiger reserve. This has the potential of improving contiguity between habitats for various wildlife species.

The project has generated several spatial datasets, a spatial database of all datasets has been created. These include landuse landcover, distribution of mammalian species in the landscape, several environmental layers, and also socio-economic data. All these spatial datasets will improve the capacity of various stakeholders to begin planning and development on a scientific basis in the P-A landscape.

We are liaising with various governmental and NGOs to improve conservation goals in the landscape.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: NA

Species Conserved: NA

Corridors Created: NA

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Several short-term milestones were achieved, such as the creation of the spatial database gathered in the P-A landscape. One of the challenges of this project is how this spatial database on biodiversity can be integrated with other spatial information to improve conservation planning.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: ANCF's GIS database on critical links in the Periyar–Agasthiyamalai corridor updated with information from primary surveys and secondary data collection.

Component 1 Actual at Completion: ANCF's GIS database in the Periyar-Agasthiyamalai corridor updated with information from primary surveys and secondary data.

Component 2 Planned: Information on habitats, critical links and threatened and lesser known mammal species placed in the public domain via accessible packages in websites (ANCF website, India Biodiversity Portal, websites of other CEPF supported projects) CD-Roms, popular magazines and other media vehicles.

Component 2 Actual at Completion: Three reports have been prepared and they have been made available at the ANCF website (www.asiannature.org). These reports will also be available at the CEPF website. Spatial data on mammalian species distribution have been hosted at the India Biodiversity Portal and also the ESRI arcgis.com websites.

Component 3 Planned: Information from ANCF's GIS database used to develop programmes to create awareness among stakeholders about the importance of the Western Ghats and its biodiversity resources, and the ecosystem services that it provides.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: Resource materials for educational programmes highlighting conservation values of the P-A landscape have been prepared. The manual has been placed online at the ANCF website.

Component 4 Planned: Awareness raised and capacity built among State Forest Department staff for science based conservation planning at the landscape level including establishing scientific monitoring programmes for the relevant globally threatened species, critical links and key sites in the Periyar–Agasthiyamalai corridor.

Component 4 Actual at Completion: Final reports of our findings have been submitted to the forest departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which highlights the findings of the project. However, no capacity building efforts have been undertaken. We plan to engage with the forest departments in the coming months.

Component 5 Planned: Final report on the project prepared and disseminated to relevant audiences.

Component 5 Actual at Completion: Final report has been prepared and submitted to stakeholders.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Conduct of awareness workshops suited to the needs of key stakeholders (especially the Forest Departments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu) in the landscape.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Several map products were developed during the project, they include species distribution maps of mammalian species in the Periyar-Agasthyamalai landscape; landuse landcover product of the landscape. These products have been passed onto the Western Ghats Portal team.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

None

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

None

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

None

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

None

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
ANCF	D		Time of additional staff

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*
- D** *In-Kind contributions can include staff and volunteer time, supplies, and other materials your organization provides to the project.*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Not applicable.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

This was a planning project. However, as a prior condition to the implementation of the project, ANCF was required to carry out a Social Assessment of the Periyar-Agasthyamalai landscape to collect additional information about the indigenous communities living in and around the critical habitat areas and habitat links within the landscape and to inform such communities about the project. In examining the project for approval and sanction of funding, CEPF agreed with ANCF's contention that, since the project involved a survey of the landscape, building of a conservation planning database, placing the database in the public domain and using the information in the database to implement a series of training workshops for key stakeholders, there would not be any negative impacts on the indigenous communities of the landscape as a result of the project.

There was therefore no need to prepare a full-fledged Indigenous Peoples Plan, as would otherwise be required by CEPF's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies. What was

required, however, was a survey of the indigenous peoples and other local communities of the landscape with information on their geographic location and spread as also their socio-cultural-economic status. This Social Survey was conducted in July 2010. In the course of this survey of Indigenous Peoples of the P-A landscape, ANCF informed them about the CEPF project and conveyed to them about the possibility of raising grievances in regard to the project and providing them with contact detail of the organization and designated person to whom such grievances could be sent.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(January 1, 2010 – September 30, 2012)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	NA			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NA			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NA			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NA			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NA			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

The response to Q5 was given as NA. Hence table not completed.

