

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Royal Society for Protection of Nature

**Project Title:** Building grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation in Bhutan

**Implementation Partners for this Project:** Local Conservation Support Groups (LCSG)

**Project Dates:** 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2010

**Date of Report:** 28 November 2010

## II. OPENING REMARKS

**In order to support the national goal of retaining 60 % forest cover for all times to come and also to meet the aspiration of the Gross National Happiness, this project aimed to establish groups of local people who would have more concerns for their local environment and would initiate timely intervention so that their local environment and biodiversity would flourish and their livelihoods sustained.**

### III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:** To reduce threats to biodiversity at selected priority sites within six KBAs and important habitat linkages through community-based conservation networks and action while strengthening the capacity of RSPN and grassroots civil society to sustain engagement in conservation action.

#### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
<b>1. Six priority sites within key biodiversity areas under better management by end of project period</b>	With the establishment of Local Conservation Support Groups in six districts, the project had intervened and had addressed environmental issues at six sites within the key bio-diversity areas.
<b>2. Local Support Groups established and functional in at least 6 dzongkhags by end of Year 2</b>	Four Local Conservation Support Groups were established by the end of year two. Currently all six LCSGs are functional with members, strategy and work plan in hand
<b>3. Priority conservation actions for key biodiversity areas identified by all Local Support Groups by end of Year 3</b>	All six LCSGs had identified priority conservation actions by year three and four and currently had successfully implemented action grant projects to address their local environmental issues.
<b>4. Local communities actively involved in conservation actions for at least 6 priority sites within key biodiversity areas by end of project</b>	Since all the LCSGs are based at the districts, the involvements of local community are at two levels. At the district level, the community leaders become the LCSG members while at the sub-group level, the communities were involved implementing projects.
<b>5. At least two staff dedicated to establishing and supporting the Local Support Group network have been recruited and trained by the end of Year 2</b>	The Project Coordinator and Assistant Project Officer were recruited and had successfully executed the CEPF project.
<b>6. More effective administrative, financial, human resources and strategic planning systems have been adopted by RSPN by the end of the project</b>	The CEPF project had supported RSPN in the formulation of its 3 <sup>rd</sup> Strategy Plan (2009 2013). RSPN now has administrative and financial manuals in place and adequate human resource to execute the plan of actions.
<b>7. At least 40 to 50 percent of the current budget leveraged for conservation initiatives involving grassroots civil society by end of project</b>	About 25,000 US \$ has been leveraged from Bhutan Water partnership, Government of Finland and UNDP. The fund was managed by LCSGs to implement water source protection, rain water harvesting and building environmentally friendly school projects.

It is expected that there are public voices for environmental conservation. In terms of the conservation actions, the water sources for some communities are ensured while some communities now have legal frameworks for sustainable harvesting of natural resources to earn their livelihoods. There are data and information collected on some species and hundreds of local people were made aware of pressing environmental issues and its impacts on the local people.

The unexpected positive impact marked was that the conservation actions have achieved more than they were expected. This was due to the support provided by local people.

## IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

### **Project Outputs:**

#### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: Network of Local Support Groups established covering 6 dzongkhags (districts) including the districts of Zhemgang, Trashigang, Bumthang, Sarbang, Wangdiphodrang and Paro.</b>	
<i>1.1. Lessons learned by support group initiatives elsewhere documented within 6 months of start of project</i>	Lessons learnt document from India, Africa, New Zealand , Vietnam, China and the Philippines were produced and distributed to LCSGs with an aim to gain experience from such projects. These documents also provided lessons for RSPN on how to manage local support groups and how would such group benefit local people and their environment.
<i>1.2. Support group development strategy formulated within 9 months of start of project</i>	Local support group strategy workshop was held in October, 2007 in collaboration with Birdlife International and a draft strategy was prepared. The draft strategy went through series of field test and review sessions and before the final strategy was developed and distributed among LCSGs. The LCSGs used the strategy document to manage their LCSG functions.
<i>1.3. Local Support Groups established in atleast 6 dzongkhags within 2 years of start of project</i>	Six local Conservation Support groups were established in six districts. Due to poor response from two districts which were listed in the project document, two new districts were identified and included in the list.
<i>1.4 Support group networking mechanisms in place by end of project.</i>	LCSGs exchange ideas and discuss issues online as there is already email networking among LCSGs and RSPN. Besides, since all LCSG focal persons are Dzongkhag Environment Officers, there are other programs to bring them together.
<b>Output 2: Stakeholder-based monitoring programmes initiated by each Local Support Group</b>	
<i>2.1. Standardised protocol for stakeholder-based monitoring of key biodiversity and threat indicators developed within 2 years of start of project</i>	With technical support from Bird life International, a manual on “Methods to monitor sites, species and habitats” developed to suit the local needs. The manual was shared among LCSGs and views were taken before finalizing the document. The final manual was printed and distributed to LCSGs.
<i>2.2. Monitoring baselines established and at least 1 subsequent year of monitoring data collected by</i>	In order to provide hands on experience, the LCSG members were trained on how to monitor their local environment and record the baseline information. A database was created to allow LCSGs to enter their data on the status of bio-diversity.

<i>all Local Support Groups by end of project</i>	
<b>2.3</b> <i>At least 6 national-level advocacy messages emanating from monitoring results developed by end of project</i>	All six LCSGs implemented an action grant project based on the monitoring results and consultations they had with the local communities. All the projects tried to address their local environmental issues. The outcome of their action grant projects were shared informing people that such community based groups could play an important role in safeguarding their local environment that underpins their livelihood. This was done in the national newspaper -KUENSEL
<b>Output 3: Local Support Groups assisted to undertake locally identified actions to conserve priority sites within key biodiversity areas of B2C2.</b>	
<b>3.1.</b> <i>At least one priority conservation action for a key biodiversity area identified by each Local Support Group within 3 years of start of project</i>	Based on the monitoring results and the community consultations the LCSGs had, each LCSG had identified one priority conservation action <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trashigang - Study on determining possible factor that contribute to the decline in Genshing (panax pseudo-genshing) population in the forests of Wamrong.</li> <li>2. Lhuntse - Environmental awareness program for local community.</li> <li>3. Bumthang – Forest management and community awareness program for Shingkar.</li> <li>4. Zhemgang - Non-wood forest resource assessment and establishment of Community group for resource management at Subrang village.</li> <li>5. Sarpang – Water Source Protection &amp; Management at Shompangkha geog.</li> <li>6. Punakha – Awareness on white-bellied heron and its conservation along the Phochu river.</li> </ol>
<b>3.2.</b> <i>Action projects undertaken by all 6 Local Support Groups by end of project</i>	On the above mentioned priority conservation actions, the LCSGs had successfully implemented action grant projects. RSPN had organized a report presentation by LCSGs and representatives from WWF, UNDP, SGP, SNV were present.
<b>Output 4: RSPN staff capacity to engage grassroots civil society in conservation strengthened</b>	
<b>4.1</b> <i>RSPN has at least two dedicated, trained staff, responsible for development of the Local Support Group network within six months of start of project</i>	RSPN had identified an experienced Project Coordinator from among their staff and appointed a Project Officer within six months of start of project.
<b>4.2</b> <i>At least 40 to 50 percent of the current budget leveraged for conservation initiatives involving grassroots civil society by end of project</i>	RSPN could leverage about 25 percent of the current budget for conservation actions at the grassroots.
<b>Output 5: RSPN's core</b>	

<p><b>capacity to facilitate and sustain grassroots civil society engagement in conservation enhanced through more effective management systems</b></p>	
<p><i>5.1 Five-year Business Plan developed and introduced within 2 years of start of project, as a tool for leveraging funding to support RSPN's Strategic Plan</i></p>	<p>The CEPF project assisted RSPN to develop its third Strategic Plan (2011 to 2015)</p>
<p><i>5.2 Human resources policy and development plan for RSPN formulated and introduced within 3 years of start of project</i></p>	<p>The CEPF project supported RSPN to develop the Administrative and Human Resource Management Manual (AHRMM) within 3 years of the project.</p>

This project had delivered all the intended outputs. The most successful one is the establishment of Local Conservation Support Groups in six dzongkhags and have built their capacity to monitor their local environment. The LCSGs will continue to enroll members particularly from the geogs levels.

There were no unrealized outputs at the end of the project period.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

It is expected that in the long run the local conservation support group from different dzongkhags would form one group with one voice.

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

People have desire to address their environmental issues in their local environment but many do not know how to do and how to start. Providing awareness and education is found to be very necessary as we have realized that local people take part in conservation activities after they understand more about the environment. It is also important to consider that the projects have direct benefit to the local communities.

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

The CEPF project has been perfectly designed. The logical framework had made the project implementers focused and to worked precisely to achieve outputs. The fund manager at the national level had efficiently delivered their duties.

**Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)**

The project was executed without any problems and all the stakeholders provided good support and had contributed to the successful completion of the project.

<b>VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING</b>
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**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Government of Finland	C	US\$ 3,000	
Bhutan Water Partnership	C	US\$ 7,000	
UNDP	C	US\$ 15,000	

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

**Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.**

RSPN expects to expand the project to all twenty dzongkhags. Although there are no secured funds for the expansion, however, we have project proposals ready for fund raising.

<b>VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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Implementing CEPF project has provided opportunity for RSPN to work with local communities directly. We could understand the environmental needs and the expectations of the local communities. This has helped us understand how the conservation approaches to be developed and in which area.

## VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Ugyen Lhendup

Organization name: Royal Society for Protection of Nature

Mailing address: PO Box 325

Tel: + 975-2-322056/ 326130

Fax: + 975-2-323189

E-mail: [ulhendup@rspnbhutan.org](mailto:ulhendup@rspnbhutan.org)