CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
Project Title:	Refining and validating Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu
Date of Report:	28/08/2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Kevin Smith Programme Officer Freshwater Biodiversity Unit Global Species Programme IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 219c Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL UK Tel: +44 (0)1223 277 966 / (0)1223 814 696 Fax +44 (0)1223 277 845

CEPF Region: Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action

Grant Amount: 69,996 (US$)

Project Dates: 01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): ZOO Outreach Organisation – Identified experts and stakeholders, helped with workshop logistics and facilitation and produced policy brief.

Conservation Impacts

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

The project as a whole has significantly contributed to "Strategic Direction 2: *Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action*". This has been achieved through the delineation and validation of 34 freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas across Kerala and Tamil Nadu, identifying the most critical areas for the conservation of threatened (and restricted range) freshwater biodiversity in the region. The aim is to raise the profile of freshwater biodiversity and provide reliable scientific data using the same framework as the well-established Important Bird Areas (IBAs which also fall under the KBA umbrella).

In particular the work has contributed to Investment Priority 2.1 "*Monitor and assess the conservation status of globally threatened species with an emphasis on lesser-known organisms such as reptiles and fish*" and also Investment Priority 2.2 "*Support efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered species through the creation and implementation of species recovery and management plans*". Key recommendations on the conservation actions needed for all KBAs (and AZE sites) were identified by stakeholders at the workshops. These

recommendations have been incorporated into the individual KBA datasheets (that are now freely available through the India Biodiversity Portal along with the KBA spatial data). The stakeholder validated network of KBAs, will also help target species and habitat monitoring for globally threatened freshwater taxa (incl. fish), support current species recovery and management plans by providing robust scientific information, and provide evidence to assist in funding for future conservation and monitoring activities. In addition at the stakeholder workshops a number of commitments were given by participants to take forward/adopt the freshwater KBAs into their current and future work. This included working at KBA sites, in particular those that also qualify as AZE sites, to undertake monitoring and surveys of freshwater biodiversity, particularly fish (Conservation Research Group, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, and the Bombay Natural History Society).

Investment Priority 2.3 "*Evaluate the existing protected area network for adequate globally threatened species representation and assess effectiveness of protected area types in biodiversity conservation*" has also been contributed to. At the stakeholder workshops which contained experts from academia, NGO and government agencies, existing protected area management activities that were relevant for the conservation of freshwater biodiversity were reviewed for those PAs that overlapped with the delineated freshwater KBAs. This found an alarming lack of any conservation management activities for freshwater biodiversity in most of the PAs, and when coupled with the long held understanding that simple occurrence within a protected area does not provide protection to freshwater biodiversity, their threats are often transported from upstream (or downstream in the case of invasive species) of the PA, there is an urgent need for a more holistic catchment based conservation activities (e.g. flow regime restoration etc).

The project has also worked towards Investment Priority 1.3 "*Support civil society to establish partnerships with state agencies to implement science-based management and conservation of priority sites in the priority corridors*". At the stakeholder workshops civil society and state organisation were represented and a number of commitments were given by participants to take forward/adopt the freshwater KBAs into their current and future work. This included a number of activities aimed at empowering local communities participating in freshwater biodiversity conservation at select KBAs through raising awareness, capacity building and setting up of biodiversity monitoring committees (as required under the Biological Diversity Act 2002).

To some extent the project will also contribute towards Investment Priority 2.4 "*Support interdisciplinary efforts to analyse and disseminate biodiversity data*". While not in local languages, the KBA data is freely available, and a number of the stakeholders have committed to using the KBA data to communicate with state departments (incl. Forest Dept.), local communities (incl. local language interpretation material), and other stakeholders.

For more information on the project results, recommendations and stakeholder commitments, please see the attached report 'Using freshwater KBAs for informing conservation and development policy and action in Kerala and Tamil Nadu'.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

<u>KBA network & data</u>

The key results/impacts of the project are the stakeholder validated 34 Key Biodiversity Areas for freshwater biodiversity. These are spatially defined GIS shapefiles (to sub-catchments) and have a number of important attributes in associated datasheets, including potential 'site champions', threatened freshwater species at the sites, key conservation actions needed, threats to the KBA, and key references. These data are freely available on the India Biodiversity Portal (links below),

and will soon be available on other platforms including the World Biodiversity Database, Biofresh data portal and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool.

The KBA data download links:

India Biodiversity Portal – project page:

http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/project/show/95

India Biodiversity Portal – project page maps:

http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/map

BIofresh & WBDB links:

http://data.freshwaterbiodiversity.eu/tools

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT):

https://www.ibat-alliance.org/ibat-conservation/login

End user KBA results & policy opportunities report

The project also undertook an 'end user' workshop, with the aim of identifying the key opportunities for incorporating the freshwater KBA data into policy and conservation. The results of this workshop are presented in a report (which also accompanies the validated KBAs data) to improve understanding of freshwater KBAs to potential users, support the adoption of the resulting KBAs in ongoing and future conservation activities and provide transparency of the KBA processes. The report details the steps undertaken and people involved to identify and validate the KBAs, summarises the results of the KBA network, presents the activities committed to by participants, the key recommendations of the project, and provides information on where the KBA data can be accessed.

KBA workshops report: IUCN. 2014. Using freshwater KBAs for informing conservation and development policy and action in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Results from the 'Refining and validating freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for Kerala and Tamil Nadu' workshops, May 2014. IUCN, Cambridge, UK

Stakeholder commitments to take forward KBAs in their work

One of the key results of the project has been the commitment by workshop stakeholders to undertake activites to take forward the KBA results into their work. This included empowering local communities participating in freshwater biodiversity conservation at select KBAs (and AZEs), working to amend the official EIA Notification process so that it states that any EIA needs to refer to freshwater KBA dataset; encouraging EIA companies to use freshwater KBA data (as baseline) for EIAs when developments take place within freshwater KBAs; where appropriate challenge developments that occur within freshwater KBAs (especially AZE sites and focal areas); use KBA data to lobby and working with government and relevant agencies to better improve implementation, and generate changes in, national policies in particular the Wetland Conservation and Management Act 2010; mainstreaming KBAs into state and local policies in particular for local land authorities and forestry department working plans.

Policy brief aimed at national and state government

Another significant result of the project was a policy brief on the results of the freshwater KBAs and is aimed at National and State government and agencies. ZOO outreach organisation who produced the policy brief (which needs typesetting) will send it to their contacts in the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change at the National level and also at the respective Western Ghats state offices, the National Biodiversity Authority and state biodiversity boards, Ministry of Fisheries and Commerce at the centre, Marine Products Export Authority (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Network of stakeholders from different sectors who are aware of KBAs

Lastly one of the key results of the project has been the engagement with stakeholders from different sectors (government, NGOs, academia) and are listed in the KBA workshops report. Many of these stakeholders have committed to specific activities (see above), the others will at least be aware of their existence and what they stand for and will hopefully incorporate eh freshwater KBAs into their ongoing work activities where relevant or inform others within their professional networks.

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

1) The identification of new sites for freshwater KBAs will assist the Indian Government to expand the Ramsar network of internationally important wetlands making it more inclusive of the wider range of taxonomic groups for which information is provided through this project -thus strengthening wetland conservation and wise use throughout the southern part of the Western Ghats Hotspot.

2) Conservation action to conserve and manage freshwater biodiversity at the site scale in KBAs within the CEPF conservation corridors will be greatly enhanced through outputs of the KBA workshops which will include specific actions for biodiversity conservation within these sites and identified organisations to the ownership of these management actions.

3) Consideration of the impacts on water resource planning and development to freshwater biodiversity throughout Kerala and Tamil Nadu will better balance the use of water by people with the water requirements of healthy functioning wetland ecosystems.

4) The workshops will raise awareness through the conservation sector and other potential end users (e.g. policy, development planners and EIA practioners) of the importance of wetland ecosystems as 'natural infrastructure' delivering many vital services to people.

5) KBA sites in the WBDB are a reference source for countries and companies aiming to fulfil Environmental Safeguards e.g. following International Finance Corporation principles.

6) Cross-sectoral application of the results to national and state development strategies and legislation and multi-lateral agreements such as the CBD (and Aichi targets) and Ramsar will be facilitated.

7) Finally, the project will strengthen the capacity of IUCN, its members, and other project partners and stakeholders throughout India, in the development of polices for natural resource management for human well-being, by integrating terrestrial, freshwater and marine approaches.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Significant progress was made during the project towards the long-term impacts. The new KBAs (and in particular the KBA Focal Areas) which have been identified for freshwater species of fish, odonates, crabs, shrimps, plants and molluscs will assist the Indian Government (and NGOs and civil society groups to lobby government) to expand the Ramsar network to incorporate a wider taxonomic coverage. For each KBA identified, the key conservation actions required to help conserve the freshwater biodiversity were identified along with the potential site champions (some of which were stakeholders at the workshop and have committed to undertaking recommended activities). The KBA workshops included over 30 experts from different sectors (see KBA workshops report for details) and through discussions on the KBA delineation process (which included food security issues) and of the policy opportunities all participants are now fully aware of the importance of wetland conservation and the vital services that they provide to people. The KBA sites are already available on the India Biodiversity Portal (links above), and will soon be available on other platforms including the World Biodiversity Database, Biofresh data portal and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool. We are still working with BirdLife International to get the KBA data incorporated into the World Biodiversity Portal. Many of the commitments made by the KBA workshop stakeholders (which came from multi-sectors including legal and EIA,

conservation NGOs, academic institutions and government departments) are to incorporate the KBA results into the ongoing work, which includes working to change and better implement national and state legislation (see KBA workshop report for details).

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

1) Identification of new freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas as priority sites for conservation throughout Kerala and Tamil Nadu (including the southern Western Ghats Hotspot).

2) Validation of KBA locations and boundaries throughout Kerala and Tamil Nadu (including the southern Western Ghats Hotspot) by stakeholders during the KBA workshop.

3) Provision, through the KBA workshops, of a set of management recommendations to improve the conservation status of freshwater species within KBA sites within the CEPF conservation corridors in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

4) On-line and freely available presentation of all information coming from the KBA workshops within the current database holding the global information on KBAs - the World Biodiversity Database. This will allow information on freshwater KBAs to be presented alongside those currently available for Important Bird Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites, and terrestrial KBAs as identified by Conservation International.

5) Raised awareness of important sites of freshwater biodiversity both at the local and state scale through stakeholder engagement through the KBA validation and data use and application workshops.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Excellent progress was made towards the short-term impacts of the project. Thirty four KBAs (and KBA Focal Areas) were delineated and validated through the stakeholder workshops, this has resulted in a GIS spatial layer and individual KBA datasheets which present a number of attributes (e.g. species present, threats, habitat types etc.). In these datasheets there is also a set of actions that are recommended to support conservation of the freshwater biodiversity at the site, and a list of potential KBA 'site champions' (stakeholders) who could support any conservation related activities at the sites. The KBA sites are already available on the India Biodiversity Portal (links above), and will soon be available on other platforms including the World Biodiversity Database, Biofresh data portal and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool. At the KBA stakeholder workshops the a key outcome was the engagement with 'end users' of the KBA data, including with stakeholders working at the state and local level. These workshop participants were fully supportive of the results of the freshwater KBAs and have committed to adopt them in their ongoing work (see KBA workshop report for more details).

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 0
Species Conserved: 0
Corridors Created: 0

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

The project has achieved, or made good progress towards achieving all of its impact objectives. All of the impacts that could have been fully achieved within the timeframe of the project, have been achieved. Challenges faced included ensuring that a diverse (in terms of sector) selection of participants attended the workshops. While a high number of potential workshop participants were identified, running 3 workshops together reduced flexibility in terms of times to accommodate all individuals we would have liked to attend, and so a number of key participants

could not attend the workshop – however they have been incorporated into the post workshop discussion and dissemination of results.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?
The KBA 'end user' workshop was the first of its kind in the freshwater KBA validation process and has proven to be a huge success in terms of improving the chances of the KBA data being adopted by stakeholders. IUCN will now incorporate this process into its freshwater KBA identification process.

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: Component 1: Sub-catchments that qualify as 'potential' freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu identified.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:
Using species Red List assessments and distribution maps for freshwater species of fish, molluscs, odonates, crabs, shrimps and plants, 'potential' KBAs were identified for Kerala and Tamil Nadu (a map showing the results of this can be seen in the KBA workshop presentation & KBA workshop briefing document) .

Component 2 Planned: KBAs refined, validated and delineated through stakeholder workshops.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:
A total of 34 freshwater KBAs (and associated Focal Areas) were delineated and validated through two stakeholder workshops. The results can been seen in the KBA workshops report.

Component 3 Planned: Key end user stakeholders aware of, and knowledgeable about, KBA data and project results.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:
Fifteen key 'end users' of the KBA data attended a workshop where discussions were held on the results of the KBA network and their conservation needs. The workshop also identified key policy and conservation opportunities, and a number of stakeholders at the workshop committed to specific actions to incorporate (take forward) the KBA results into the ongoing work. Please see the KBA workshops report for more details. The policy brief has been written, but it still needs typesetting and disseminating. ZOO will typeset the policy brief and a new version will be sent to CEPF as soon as possible.

Component 4 Planned: ZOO subgrant: key stakeholders identified and workshop facilitation provided

Component 4 Actual at Completion:
ZOO identified the key stakeholders on time, facilitated the workshops and helped with workshop logistics. ZOO also produced a policy brief targeted at national and state level policy makers and government institutions. Please see the KBA workshop report and policy brief.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?
The policy brief has been produced, however it still needs to be type set and distributed. The version attached with this report will be updated with the final version soon.

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

IUCN freshwater KBA workshops briefing document
This document was sent to invitees of the KBA workshops and the end user workshop – it outlines the back ground of the project, the aims of the workshops and provisions results ('potential KBAs').

IUCN freshwater KBA workshops presentation
This was the presentation given to participants of the KBA workshops and the end user workshop. It outlines the project, and provides more information on the KBA criteria and delineation process and also the provisions results ('potential KBAs').

[KBA workshop report] Using freshwater KBAs for informing conservation and development policy and action in Kerala and Tamil Nadu
This report is the results of the workshops (KBA delineation and end user). It presents the key KBA terms in regional languages, a background to the project, the participants of the workshops, information on KBAs in general, results of the KBA identification for Kerala and Tamil Nadu, results of the discussions of the end user workshop and activities agreed to be undertaken by participants, recommendations for future work and information on where the KBA data can be downloaded.

Screen shots of the KBA data on the India Biodiversity Portal

KBA shapefiles & datafiles
A zip file containing the GIS shapefiles of the freshwater KBA network and KBA focal areas. It also contains the KBA datasheets (one per KBA) that detail all the site attributes (species, habitats, threats etc) and the conservation actions needed, and potential site champions.

Policy brief
This is a policy brief on the freshwater KBA network with the aim of informing national and state policy makers of the urgent need to make a series policy changes in order to protect the regions freshwater biodiversity. ZOO outreach organisation who produced the policy brief (which still needs typesetting and distributing) will send it to their contacts listed below and continue to engage with them.
Key recipients of the policy brief: Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change at the National level and also at the respective Western Ghats state offices, the National Biodiversity Authority and state biodiversity boards, Ministry of Fisheries and Commerce at the centre, Marine Products Export Authority (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

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.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
Having the workshop all together was both an advantage and a hindrance. It allowed some people to attend more than one workshop as they were held consecutively, but it also meant we were less flexible with the workshop dates and therefore couldn't accommodate all key participants.

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

IUCN didn't expect the stakeholder identification process to identify so many individuals - therefore a prioritisation process should be built into any similar projects, unless funds are there to have much larger workshops.

The KBA data use and application workshop was the first of its kind that we have run. Through running this workshop, we have learned a number of lessons on workshop structure and content, and realised how critical/useful this specific aspect of the project is in terms of getting KBA data to generate action.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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

***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.

Through the end user workshop (and also the KBA delineation workshops), a cross-sectoral network of experts has been established. This included experts from academia, government departments, legal and EIA organisations, and conservation NGOs. All participants were very enthusiastic about the KBA results and have committed to taking forward the KBA data into their work and where appropriate engage with the 'site champions' that were identified for each KBA. Some participants have also agreed to undertake specific activities using the KBA results at local, state and national levels (see KBA workshop report for more details).

IUCN are committed to work on and develop KBAs, and have become a 'Key Knowledge Product' of IUCN along with the Red List of Threatened Species. These KBA identified through this project will be incorporated with all other KBAs (IBAs, other terrestrial and marine KBAs etc) into the World Biodiversity Database and the associated Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (for Conservation & Business).

ZOO outreach organisation has committed to use the freshwater KBAs in its ongoing work, and has already undertaken work on freshwater biodiversity in AZE sites. They have also expressed an interest (if funds can be found) to undertake the same KBA delineation process for the rest of India. ZOO have also produced a policy brief using the results of the KBA network which is aimed at national and state level policy makers. The focus of the policy brief is to encourage a series of policy changes and the incorporation of the KBA network into the official EIA process.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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:

Name: Kevin Smith
Organization name: IUCN
Mailing address: 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1223 277 966
Fax: +44 (0)1223 277 845
E-mail: Kevin.smith@iucn.org

*****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

(Enter Grant Term)

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.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.				

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: