

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society
Project Title:	Regional Implementation Team – Administration and Programs
Grant Number:	62242
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	
Grant Amount:	\$374,975.00
Project Dates:	October 01, 2012 - October 31, 2017
Date of Report:	January 18, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

The RIT Coordinating Nairobi/Kigali office:the project worked closely withthe office to support/build the capacity of civil societies in conserving Key Biodiversity Areas identified in Ethiopia. The major partner provided essential technical support in the five year implementation period. The office has been highly engaged in formulatingand publishing calls for proposals and making decisions on granting suitable projects that contribute to the optimal achievement of CEPF investment. The technical backstopping also include reviewing and providing comments on Eth. LG grantees' performance and financial reports, follow-up the implementation of CEPF investment programme in Ethiopia to fulfill the CEPF requirements, providing inputs in publishing articles in BLI websites.

Grantees: a total of 18 grantees from Ethiopia, Belgium, Germany and UK were implementing partners executing 30 CEPF supported projects in Ethiopia.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The following results have been achieved:

A total of 11 Large Grant (55 % - minimum target: 20) and 19 Small Grant (95 % - minimum target: 20) projects was managed and coordinated.

Over the past five year programme, it was managed to administer and coordinate a total of 30 projects (19 Small and 11 Large Grant) implemented by 17 organizations (11NGOs, 4Universities,

one governmental office and one consulting firm) at a grant amount of USD1.8 million in 9 priority KBAs. The KBAs include AliyuAmba (1LG and 2 SGs), Ankober-DebreSina (1LG and 2SGs), Awi Zone (2 SGs), Bonga-Segen (1LG, incomplete) Guassa Plateau (1LG and 2SGs), Lake Tana (1LG and 1SG), Little Abay (1 LG), Mt. Guna (2 LGs and 2 SGs), Sheka (3LGs and 6SGs) and Wadela (1SG). Additionally, a consulting firm has executed one small grant project providing technical support for conducting and facilitating two training programmes, Project Design, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and Financial Management, respectively. Of the 30 projects, EWNHS signed project agreement with 19 small grant projects implemented in Sheka (Kefa –Yayu), Mt. Guna, Awi Zone, Wadela, AliyuAmba, Ankober, Guassa and Lake Tana Priority Areas.

The projects addressed Strategic Directions pertinent to Ethiopia.


- (a) Strategic Direction 1, Investment priorities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 involved a total of 17 projects (11 Small Grants and 6 Large Grants) in eight priority areas that contributed to rehabilitation of natural habitats, network establishment among stakeholders, promotion of eco-tourism, community empowerment through training and livelihood improvement, conservation of species and conservation of three biosphere reserves (Lake Tana, Sheka and Yayu Biosphere Reserves).
- (b) Strategic Direction 2 Investment Priorities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 engaged 11 projects (6 LGs and 5 SGs) which addressed increase of the protection status of endemic plant species/biosphere reserve through newly developed management plans and rapid assessment of fauna and flora and biological survey during the investment of CEPF-EAM programme in Ethiopia.
- (c) Strategic Direction 3, Investment Priority 3.3 involved a project that provided training to 10 sub-grantees (7M, 3F) from three NGOs and two universities on Project Design, Management, Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
To contribute to strengthening the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in achieving conservation and management of globally important biodiversity in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot through the implementation of a coherent investment strategy	
Provision of strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.	Great efforts have been made to make use of all small grant funds allocated to Ethiopia and to coordinate large grant projects to successfully complete the projects.
Promulgation of the goals of CEPF, as represented in the Ecosystem Profile.	National and local, and donors’ representatives meetings provided opportunities to disseminate the goals of CEPF investment programme in the country.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The Administrative and Programmatic components of the EAM RIT in Ethiopia are well managed and deliver all components and expected results.	Great efforts have been made to make use of all small grant funds allocated to Ethiopia and to coordinate large grant projects to successfully complete the projects.



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

Success: In the five year investment period, all (30) projects were well managed and coordinated to address the conservation needs of nine (Aliyu Amba, Ankober, Awi Zone, Guassa, Mt. Guna, Lake Tana, Sheka, Wadela, and Wof Washa)priority KBAs identified in the country.

Site monitoring visits revealed that Stakeholders particularly local government offices (Zonal and Wereda Admin. Offices, offices of Agriculture, Culture and Tourism, Land and Environmental Protection and Economy and Finance) in 25 project sites and the communities involved in the implementation of the projects are responsive about conservation issues around their KBAs 2443 visitors of a website of EWNHS are aware about CEPF's investment in Ethiopia through the uploaded information about CEPF and its investment programme in Ethiopia.

Challenge: Overdue release of funds from CEPFin the last quarter of 2017 Secretariat made the small grant project closeout late.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

NA

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Main grants program is established, implemented and coordinated in Ethiopia.	1.1	1.1. A minimum of 20 -30 grants disbursed, managed and coordinated	11 Large Grant projects spread over nine priority KBAs during the five year CEPF investment in Ethiopia. 16 Site monitoring visits (EWNHS paid more than one visit to AAU, BDU, ORDA, SUNARMA and Lem-Ethiopia project sites) 5 office visits (to grantees based in Addis Ababa: AAU, Lem-Ethiopia, MELCA-Ethiopia, PHE and SUNARMA) and two grantee meetings, conducted during the five year programme, were instrumental to manage and coordinate projects undertaken in the respective KBAs. The visits helped to learn more about: the actual performance and the planned project activities, partnership established between local government offices and the project, the technical support provided by the offices to carryout project activities attaining project goals, conservation of KBAs. From the discussion held with local government offices we have learnt that their level of involvement is more than satisfactory and they were positive about the projects carried out in the KBAs. The projects were well managed and coordinated in the implementation period that contributed to the successful completion of the same.
1	Main grants program is established, implemented and coordinated in Ethiopia.	1.2	USD 1 million disbursed in Ethiopia in the main grants across the five year investments	CEPF disbursed USD 1.5 million to 11 large grant projects over the last five years.
2	Small grants program is established, implemented and coordinated in Ethiopia.	2.1	2.1. A minimum of 20 -30 small grants disbursed, managed and coordinated	The project signed a total of 15 project agreements with eight sub-grantees that include Bahir Dar University, Bees for Development Ethiopia (3) , God for People Relief and Development Organisation (3), Gondar University (4), Melca –Ethiopia, Mettu University, Organisation for Social Development and ZESMAN Consultancy. The project areas of the sub-grantees took account of Awi Zone, Lake Tana, Mt. Guna, Sheka, and Wadela KBAs. The project (EWNHS) held and administered CEPF funds for the implementation of small grant scheme in the country. The project received and reviewed 30 performance, 29

				financial (S16-377-ETH Mettu University's final financial report is still pending) and 15 final completion reports and communicated feedbacks through e-mails for the improved reports.
2	Small grants program is established, implemented and coordinated in Ethiopia.	2.2	USD 250,000 disbursed in small grants	A total of USD 272.087 granted to 15 small grant projects in the five year programme.
3	Monitoring and reporting systems are in place and functioning in Ethiopia.	3.1	3.1. Grantee project reports submitted and of good quality; results achieved	A project restocked Lake Tana with 42,000 fingerlings of Labeobarbus fish species and 21,000 C. gariepinus that signifies the saving of the ecosystem of the lake. A management plan is in place for the conservation of Little Abbai River mouth wetland. The importance of conserving Lagarosiphon steudner, identified as a single site endemic plant species in Wadela, is well accentuated in the management plan. The management plan of Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve is being implemented. The conservation status of Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve has been improved. Environmental Protection and Land Administration Offices of Ankober Wereda are making use of A Guideline to Mainstream Biodiversity into Local Plans and Policies. Eco-tourism, as income generating scheme is promoted in Wof Washa and Mt. Guna KBAs to financially strengthen the communities and to lessen the pressure on the biodiversity of the KBAs. A Forest Conservation Group is empowered to the level of participation in decision making process, in Sheka KBA. Biological surveys conducted in Ethiopian Highlands and Keffa Yayu Corridors reported against changes in the conservation status of selected KBAs putting specific focus on trigger species for the KBA. Private sectors are brought into focus through CSR guideline .
3	Monitoring and reporting systems are in place and functioning in Ethiopia.	3.2	Regular monitoring visits to sites, compatible to the budgets allocated, are being conducted	Monitored 25 project sites (the nature of the five projects did not demand monitoring for the reason that three projects were on biological surveys, one project on production of promotional materials and one was on provision of technical support) shared the reports with the RIT Coordinator and CEPF Secretariat through the monitoring formats developed by RIT Secretariat.
3	Monitoring and reporting systems are in	3.3	Reports to CEPF produced in	Submitted 10 Performance Reports and 20 Financial Reports to CEPF Secretariat in the last five years.

	place and functioning in Ethiopia.		time and of high quality	
4	CEPF investment in the Ethiopian portion of the EAM Hotspot well coordinated and communicated, and additional funding leveraged	4.1	4.1. Regular communication with donors, partners, grantees/stakeholders and CEPF	Eight donor's (AFD, EU, GEF, JICA, and the World Bank) representatives based in Addis Ababa are aware about CEPF investment in Ethiopia through detailed briefings and PPT presentations about the projects' contribution towards the conservation of the country's biodiversity through integrating conservation with livelihood improvement and remarkable participation of communities. The project provided advisory services during grantee meetings on improving reports and utilization of budget and also provided technical backups during monitoring visits. Close follow-up was instrumental to check on the project implementation process and provide possible solutions for problems that grantees encounter. In the CEPF investment period, EWNHS managed to hold discussions with 72 stakeholders from Wereda and Zonal Offices of the Administration, Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Culture and Tourism, Finance and Economy, Chamber of Commerce, and Bahir Dar Fisheries and Aquaculture. The discussion mainly focused on their level of involvement which includes signing of memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the projects in the KBAs, community mobilization, provision of technical supports. in trainings and giving out lands for raising of seedlings.
4	CEPF investment in the Ethiopian portion of the EAM Hotspot well coordinated and communicated, and additional funding leveraged	4.2	At least 5 articles produced for websites, magazines, e-bulletins etc with news about the EAM	Nine articles which include launch events, news items, survey reports and nine calls for proposals have been published in the website of EWNHS. A total of 24,476 have visited the website.
5	Enhanced capacity of Ethiopian civil society groups in project development and management	5.1	5.1. Grantee proposals, projects and reports are of increasingly good quality between the start and the	The quality of many of (80%) final completion reports of grantees has shown improvements providing quantified project results that indicate the success/impact of projects in terms of community empowerment towards livelihood improvement and decision making, habitat rehabilitation, conservation of vulnerable plant/fish species and the entire ecosystem in EAM Hotspot Areas.

			end of the investment period	
5	Enhanced capacity of Ethiopian civil society groups in project development and management	5.2	The investment portfolio shows a coherent set of high quality projects	
5	Enhanced capacity of Ethiopian civil society groups in project development and management	5.3	Lessons learned document produced and shared	The project profile and success stories of a God for People, Relief and Development Organization (GPRDO) “Consolidating the Scaling up Alternative Livelihoods Income Sources Focused Forest Development and Protection Approaches in Bechi Peasant Association of Yeki Woreda” has been presented through PPT to 45 members of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) of which GPRDO is a member. The information has recently been distributed to Yeki Wereda Administration, Agriculture, Environment and Land Administration and Finance and Economy offices. The major objective of the document is to underpin the role the project has played to save/sustainably use Sheka’s natural resources in one hand and seek for additional funds through CCRDA to sustain the achievements of the projects.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.1	6.1. Provide quarterly financial reports and semi-annual performance reports to Birdlife Nairobi	The project submitted 17 performance reports since October 2012.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.2	Participate in annual RIT meetings in Nairobi	EWNHS Participated in 3 annual RIT meetings (2013, 14 and 15).
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.3	Participate in and support CEPF mid-term and final evaluations	EWNHS Participated in mid-term and final evaluations that Fauna and Flora International conducted. The Mid-term evaluation dealt with programme efficiency, efficacy, relevance and sustainability- and ideas on how the programme could be strengthened in

			and program audits	each of these areas. The final evaluation focused on investment approach, impact, lessons learnt, efficiency and sustainability of the programme.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.4	Support and organize project “launch” events in Ethiopia	The project provided its full support for the realization of the launch event that was held on 1st March 2013, at Alliance Ethio-Française, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in the presence of the Ambassador of France to Ethiopia, H.E. Mrs Brigitte Collet, Ethiopian authorities and national media. The objective of the event was to brief audiences about the strategic directions and investment priorities of CEPF Programme, to give practical explanations to potential applicants on the grant making process (for large and small grant programmes) and to develop and diversify exchanges between potential collaborators to the Programme, in Ethiopia. The event involved a total of 48 participants of which 25 partakers represented civil societies.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.5	Participate in final project “debrief	Presented a power point presentation in the presence of Board members, CEPF Grant Director, RIT Coordinator and RIT Team. The presentation includes the focus areas that the projects in Ethiopia have been involved and the results they have achieved in the five year investment programme in Ethiopia.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.6	Represent the RIT consortium during local and national meetings	In the five year CEPF programme, EWNHS represented CEPF in three national, one regional and four local meetings organized by FAO, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network, Lem–Ethiopia (2), Ministry of Science and Technology, Population, Health and Environment Consortium. A total of 655 participants who partake in the meetings are aware about CEPF investment in Ethiopia through short briefings requesting the organizers for slots and distribution of the Eco-system Profile for the participants of the meetings.
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.7	Promote the CEPF hotspot with other donors to raise awareness and solicit additional investment	NA
6	Consortium representation and reporting to Birdlife	6.8	Produce articles for newsletters and website	Nine articles which include launch events, news items, survey reports and nine calls for proposals have been published in the website of EWNHS. A total of 24,476 have visited the website. Similarly, five articles on the

			and provide input to communications materials produced by the consortium members	achievements of AAU, GPRDO, Lem-Ethiopia, ORDA and SUNARMA were published in the website of BLI.
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Close follow-up, site monitoring visit and grantee meetings supported the coordination and management of the projects that resulted in addressing the conservation issues in each priority KBA.

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:


- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Lessons learned include:

- **Need to conduct pre project assessment, to check the planned activities are visible and the allotted budget is adequate to ensure the progress of projects towards their goal..**
- **Close follow-up and grantees meeting are vital tools to share experiences, identify problems encountered in the implementation process and seek for a solution.**
- **An exit strategy need to be part of a project document that will enable grantees to continue with their results.**
- **A conservation project should ensure the link between conservation and livelihood.**
- **The allocated CEPF budget and project duration for small and large grant are not adequate to learn about the impact of the projects.**

EWNHS has built a capacity and capability of implementing highly complicated project, that involve manifold stakeholders and multi country nationals with various cultural set up.

Sustainability / Replication



Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The successes are defined as:

The great efforts the project has exerted in making use of all the funds allocated for the project leg in Ethiopia.

EWNHS has discharged all its responsibilities despite the small amount of administrative cost allocated for it to oversight the CEPF Project in Ethiopia.

Challenges:

The project was not designed to consider sustaining of achieved project benefits that depends on, the following:

- **The amount of efforts that should be exerted**
- **Financial and capital investments**
- **Life span of projects**
- **Whether the project idea has gained buy-in and embraced by beneficiaries and local government authorities**
- **Capacities and capabilities of beneficiaries and stakeholders**
- **Proper exit strategy**

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations


Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

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 CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

Type of funding



Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of 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)*

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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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