

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Frankfurt Zoological Society - U.S., Inc.
<b>Project Title:</b>	Improved Community and Ecological Resilience for the Guassa Community Conservation Area
<b>Grant Number:</b>	63370
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Eastern Afromontane
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	1 Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$149,213.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	January 01, 2014 - December 31, 2016
<b>Date of Report:</b>	March 22, 2017

### Implementation Partners

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

- 1. Amahara Guassa Conservation Supporting Office:** This relatively new office provides technical support for the Community Conservation Council and thus were a key project partner. The project provided capacity building support through technical advice and equipment. The CSO assist the council by analysing and interpreting community monitors data and then providing management recommendations, supporting the community scouts in controlling illegal natural resource users.
- 2. Menz- Gera District Agriculture Office:** The project worked closely with this office particularly on project livelihood interventions. Honey production development activities were fully supported by the office experts.
- 3. Menz- Gera District Culture and Tourism Office:** Collaboration with this office was mainly focused of building capacity of tourism board towards tourist service providing schemes, financial management and audit procedures. This office will provide oversight to the Community Tourist Board at project end.
- 4. Professional Alliance for Development in Ethiopia (PADet):** PADet is local NGO mainly working on community health and livelihood improvements. We were working with them to address the objective of “links between population, reproductive health and the environment understood by the user communities in target area of GCCA”.

## Conservation Impacts

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

The project has resulted in the following short and long term impacts:

- Guassa Community Conservation Area is better managed and illegal destructive activities have reduced, since Illegal utilizations of natural resources by marginalized groups have declined.
- Income of households that are involved in beekeeping increased by a significant 57% and this intervention was well regarded by beneficiaries. The artisans' overall income, however, increased by just 5% due to limited markets and marketing, resulting in low tourist numbers, with no real increase. The recent unrest in Ethiopia has also impacted tourism.
- Guassa Community Conservation Council is capable of managing and administrating the GCCA with little external support, and that only from the Government office. This is a major achievement and suggests that a key element of sustainability is now in place.
- Police, local government militia and judiciary offices, in collaboration with GCCA supporting office, have established a conflict resolving committee and have begun working to solve any conflicts that arise. thus law enforcement and collaboration between government and community has improved.
- Information from ecological monitoring are being provided to the GCCC quarterly basis, thus an adaptive management system is now in place.
- Communities have realised the benefits from conserving the area, due to the substantial income from grass cutting in the open season in 2015 and thus are much more positive in supporting conservation of the area.
- There is increased understanding in the beneficiary communities on the links between population, health and the environment
- Guassa Tourism Board account and management are up to date and managing the product. Regular external auditing annually is not yet fully operational, although one audit has taken place.
- The Ethiopian wolf population is stable or has increased: According to the total count and pack size of Ethiopian wolf population, there are estimated to be 35-42 individuals, which is greater than previously estimated.
- Guassa grass abundance has remained stable and after the extensive harvesting two years ago during the open period, the regrowth is of better quality.

Therefore, the overall results show that the impacts of the project are remarkably positive from the perspective of community safeguarding and sustainable natural resource management as the interventions were integrating livelihood improvements along with biodiversity conservation.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Guassa Community Conservation Area (-9800 hectares) is better managed and illegal destructive activities are reduced	The number of illegal activities has reduced. According to the community monitors data livestock grazing in GCCA has been reduced by 95% and become almost zero grazing area.

Ethiopian wolf population stable at an estimated 25-30 individuals Guassa grass abundance and quality remains stable	Good quality and high abundance of Guassa grass has been observed after being cut while the area was opened.
Guassa Community Conservation Area (-9800 hectares) is better managed	Community Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CMETT) scores increased. The overall CMETT score increased from 51(75%) in 2013 to 62(91%) in 2016.
illegal destructive activities are reduced	Number of illegal activities reduced.
Ethiopian wolf population stable at an estimated 25-30 individuals	Stable or increased: 42 individuals counted by Guassa Supporting Office by Total Count Method, 35 individuals estimated by FZS from pack size estimation at pack dens.
Guassa grass abundance and quality remains stable	Observed good quality and high abundance of Guassa grass grown after being cut during the area opened. Community benefited hugely from income from grass harvesting in 2015 and will do so again in 2017, thus increasing support for the area's conservation

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
A reduction in illegal activities from households involved in tourism, the production of honey, or producing artisanal products	Number of illegal activities from HH involved in project activities (Honey, tourism etc) extremely reduced. More than 50% of target groups have stopped illegally harvesting natural resources from GCCA.
Target households diversify income and increased overall income by 20% one year after project end	Honey producers income increased above 20%. However, Artisans income increased only by 5%.
make decisions regarding opening and closing of the Area Guassa Tourism Board	The CCC is making decisions about opening and closing of the area. The area was opened by the council decision for public utilisation for 10 days in 2015 and the council scheduled to open again in May 2017, as the viability and abundance of Guassa grasses increases when it is cut with two years intervals.
accounts are up to date and audited every year	Accounts are audited in 2015 and ready to be audited for 2016.

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

**The project livelihoods intervention showed positive results in generating income for poor families and in turn reducing illegal users on GCCA natural resources. These results have been the project's biggest achievements. We are also fairly confident that the GCCA is now operating relatively sustainability as the Amhara Guassa Support Office is now functioning well in supporting the GCC Council, thanks to input from the project and the development of standard operating procedures and systems.**

**Challenges have included marketing the tourism potential of the area, particularly during the political unrest in the last 12 months in Ethiopia. In addition, ensuring that the Community Tourism Board had the capacity to manage the area has been challenging particularly since the FZS tourism advisor was**



**tragically killed in a fire 18 months ago. The replacement officer had little time and then had to leave at short notice.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**Yes, the income of beekeeping activity was much greater than expected as it is more than doubled from the estimated percentage on the project document.**

**The other unexpected impact was the community receives compensation from Road Construction Company as the road under construction crosses GCCA. As the GCCC has gained in capacity and strength and has been empowered, it was in a situation to demand this compensation from the commercial company and to receive the funds.**

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3	Links between population, reproductive health and the environment understood by communities in target area	3.2	Links between population, reproductive health and the environment discussed at 8 kebele and 2 woreda Guassa Community Council Meetings	Awareness training on the importance of PHE links in biodiversity conservation were given for GCCA users in collaboration with a local NGO known as Professional Alliance for development in Ethiopia (PADET).
3	Links between population, reproductive health and the environment understood by communities in target area	3.3	600 posters depicting the links between family size and the environment designed, printed and distributed	The importance of integrating people, health and environment for sustainable natural resources management and development has been disseminated to the Guassa community and district sectors through producing and distributing 600 PHE posters.
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.1	Guassa Community Conservation Council (GCCC) members received training in GCCC function, their roles and responsibilities , financial management	GCCC members received training on the overall management of GCCA through bi-annual meeting schedules and mentoring during meetings. In addition discussion of the type and content of standard operating procedures took place. This training method was very valuable as it created reflection and discussion for example on roles and responsibilities of the council, procedures that should be followed.
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa	2.2	Management and operational	The produced SOPs detailed the management and operational system of the GCCC and it is in line with the directives that was produced by the Amhara Region

	Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.		systems of the GCCC laid out in SOPs (Standard Operation Procedures) and detailed manual of roles and responsibilities produced	Bureau of Culture Tourism and Parks Development (BoCTPD).
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.3	Community scouts trained in patrolling, record keeping, procedures, conservation management, conflict resolution, wildlife disease, ecological and threat monitoring	Training on conflict resolution methods was given for district police, Militia, judiciary and justice offices. As a result, the trainees have put in practice the knowledge they got from the training. For example, the district police, Militia and judiciary offices in collaboration with GCCA supporting office have established a conflict resolving committee and have begun working to solve the natural resource management and utilisation conflicts before and after they happen . Training on ecological and threat monitoring techniques was given for community monitors, community scouts, environmental protection and GCCA supporting offices that resulted in enabling them to provide management recommendations for better Guassa conservation. Training documents and photos are available. In addition, the GCCA support office are providing feedback from the monitoring data to community council meetings on a quarterly basis, and the basis of adaptive management is thus in place.
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.4	Local government conservation authorities have increased capacity and commitment for oversight and support of GCCA after training in community conservation management	Capacity of local government conservation authorities increased by taking them to Bale Mountain National Park. The objective of the field trip was to identify knowledge on management efforts of protected areas and then for scaling up the acquired experiences to the better management protected areas which are found in the Amhara Regional State .They learnt positive and constructive lessons from from the trip. They appreciated NGOs' effort in the conservation of BMNP natural resources though there seems poor support from the local government as they had observed illegal grazing and settlement inside the park.

2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.5	Legal directives that lay out GCCA management are produced with the Amhara Regional Bureau of Culture, Tourism and Parks, that support GCCC operations.	Legal directives were produced by the Amhara Region Bureau of Culture, Tourism and Parks and are being used by the GCCC. The legal directives enable the GCCC to manage the area properly because the roles and responsibilities of community scouts, tourism board and council members have been explicitly explained under each section. The directives were produced after the GCCA regulation(No.97/2012) being issued by the council of Amhara Regional State.
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.6	Community scouts provided with uniforms, raincoats and torches and monitors provided with uniform, raincoats, GPS and compass	A total of 32 community scouts and monitors were equipped with uniforms, raincoats and torches but GPS and compass only for monitors. The total purchasing costs and kinds are detailed in the financial transaction report.
2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.7	Study tour to GCCA from Abune Yoseph and Borena Sayint communities	A total of 37 Key council members from Abune Yoseph and Borena Sayint communities visited GCCA. They have learnt lots of experiences from Guassa Community Conservation Council by conducting panel discussion and field visit. The council members had elaborated to the guests how they are conserving and utilizing their natural resources; how the Guassa community serves the community scouts' while they are engaged in patrolling Guassa area and the coordination of GCCC with tourism board, service providers and guide association were the discussion agendas just to name it.

2	Result 2. Management of the Guassa Community Conservation Area strengthened with increased capacity and clear operational systems in the Guassa Community Conservation Council.	2.8	Regular follow up and monitoring of Process Framework regarding Involuntary Restriction of access to natural resources safeguard.	Quarterly and bi-annual review meetings were the means of monitoring safeguards.
3	Links between population, reproductive health and the environment understood by communities in target area	3.1	8 consultative and PHE awareness raising meetings with Guassa user kebeles	PHE training was given for 8 Guassa user kebeles' health extension agents through training of the trainers approach. In return, each trainer has conducted consultative and PHE awareness raising meeting with Guassa user communities. A total of 71 (24 female) were participated in the training of trainers training workshop. In turn they had conducted 8 consultative and PHE awareness raising meeting across all GCCA user Kebeles based on the training they had acquired.
1	Result 1. Alternative livelihoods (honey, wool products) developed for impoverished and disadvantaged groups in 4 target areas and artisan natural resource and tourism products marketed under the Guassa brand	1.1	Guassa natural resource products (e.g. honey and wool products) brand and marketing strategy developed by consultant and implemented	The consultant developed a logo and brand for natural resource management products such as honey or basketry, for use on labelling and marketing. In addition an action plan was developed for developing marketing of products further. A participatory training and survey of value chains for natural resource products also revealed that, at current levels of production, and a reasonable local market for honey for example. it was not viable to implement and invest hugely in marketing currently. Moreover financial limitations on taking this initiative further. The branding samples are uploaded in this report.
1	Result 1. Alternative livelihoods (honey, wool	1.2	Honey quality improved by the provision of training to	Honey quality training was given for beneficiaries in collaboration with the district agriculture office experts as well as through an experience sharing trip.



	products) developed for impoverished and disadvantaged groups in 4 target areas and artisan natural resource and tourism products marketed under the Guassa brand		traditional and new honey producers in 4 target kebeles	
1	Result 1. Alternative livelihoods (honey, wool products) developed for impoverished and disadvantaged groups in 4 target areas and artisan natural resource and tourism products marketed under the Guassa brand	1.3	The quality, quantity, diversity and sales of traditional wool carpets, curtains and other wool products increased above baseline	Artisans were participating in Bazaars in the early part of the project and providing their traditional products for tourists at the lodge, but sales levels have not increased overall above baseline. Considerable additional investment would be required to take this initiative to another level of production, with involvement of the private sector.
1	Result 1. Alternative livelihoods (honey, wool products) developed for impoverished and disadvantaged groups in 4 target areas and artisan natural resource and tourism products marketed under the Guassa	1.4	Two twin/family rooms with self-contained bathrooms built and furnished at the Guassa community lodge	Two twin self contained rooms are built and fully furnished so that they are rented 1000 Birr per room per day.

	brand			
1	Result 1. Alternative livelihoods (honey, wool products) developed for impoverished and disadvantaged groups in 4 target areas and artisan natural resource and tourism products marketed under the Guassa brand	1.5	Office holders in Community Tourism Board, lodge tourism manager and service providers association are trained are trained in business operations, leadership, entrepreneurs hip, financial management, hospitality.	The tourism manager was sent to Awash and Simien Mountain National Parks private lodges and gained experience in managing tourists, leadership and business operations. Lesson learnt report of the manager uploaded as an attachment

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

**The PHE KAP assessment that was conducted has provided valuable baseline data for the future. The CMETT assessment developed by FZS was useful in tracking the capacity of the council**

## 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

**We have learned that working with government partners hand in hand and other non-governmental organizations is quite imperative for addressing the objectives of our project as we have shared lots of experiences from and to them.**

**In the Ethiopian context for CBNRM, government support is crucial from start to sustainability. Thus the engagement and committment of Amhara National Regional State was generated at project start and at GCCA inception. Although it took time for Amhara to organise and develop their own offices, once they have, it has provided a good exit strategy for us. In many ways the Amhara GCCA Support**



Office is now acting as the secretariat to the Council and has ensured that paid staff are following up on issues and management systems, thereby taking our role to date. However decision-making still lies with the Council, which has a community member majority. These are good conditions for an exit strategy to be successful and potential for sustainability is good, if income can continue to be raised. Honey production intervention was very successful (combined with other funds) and helped to improve livelihoods and also perceptions of the GCCA. There is a large local market to satisfy before embarking on marketing at a national or high quality niche product should be developed. Thus analysis of markets is crucial before investment in creating or improving value chains. Whilst the community in GCCA is very cohesive and committed, the opening of the area for grass harvesting after a number of years of closure improved this and took the commitment to a new level. Thus if it is possible for an area to allow sustainable use in a controlled fashion it can really contribute to community commitment to conservation. This of course is not a new lesson learnt in the wider context, but was found to be true in the Guassa CCA.

Links between development activities and conservation outcomes must be clear: The commitment of potential beneficiaries from livelihood interventions to adhere to byelaws for natural resource management (through eg 'Conservation Covenants'), must be obtained before support is provided. If this agreement is broken, sanctions must be applied. Otherwise there are few links between the investment in beneficiaries and conservation outcomes.

Investing some amounts of money for professional consultants before the actual implementation is among the key lessons we have learnt because it saved the project from expenses arising from minor errors.

## **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.

Extreme poverty around GCCA can be taken as a major challenge in the conservation of the area. From the success of this project, we have observed that sustainable natural resources management can be addressed by the integration of alternative but conservation-compatible income generating schemes with conservation activities. So, conservation projects should incorporate activities to reduce poverty as well as traditional conservation activities to achieve sustainable biodiversity conservation since the disadvantaged community members rely on natural resources for their daily subsistence. However the commitment of beneficiaries to adhere to byelaws for natural resource management (through e.g. Conservation Covenants), must be obtained before such support is provided. If this agreement is broken, sanctions must be applied. Otherwise there are few links between the investment of beneficiaries and conservation outcomes.

### **Sustainability**

Conditions are good for institutional sustainability now that the Amhara GCCA support office is functional and has taken over many of the project's roles. However it does still need some investment in the medium term in terms of replacement equipment. The biggest challenge into the future will be financial sustainability. Whilst there is some tourism revenue, continued efforts to market the area are required and this is difficult for the local tourism board, as they have very limited understanding of tourism industry. Moreover as to date, most of the market is expatriates from Addis Ababa, and where there is considerable annual turnover, marketing must be continual. In the longer term, investment by a private operator, or the lease of the lodge to an operator, is a better model, but

challenging to achieve in the current political and investment climate.

#### **Replicability**

We have used a similar community based natural resource management model to stimulate the formation of the Abune Yospeh Community Conservation Area near Lalibela. Whilst this area has both a less cohesive community and is relatively less developed in terms of management systems, the visit of personnel from AYCCA to GCCA was very useful and motivating.

GCCA is the first community conservation wildlife area in Ethiopia and as such provides a model for conservation in other areas. The legislation and SOPs and systems have thus great potential for being used to replicate the approach elsewhere in Ethiopia.

### **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

It was sent as a separate document during the previous report period.

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

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

We very much appreciate the efforts of CEPF to bring sustainable biodiversity conservation to this biologically diverse hotspot area. We would advise that the Abune Yoseph massif should be include in the areas eligible for CEPF funding. For some reason it was never included. It has a similar management system now set up as Guassa, but the system development is more immature and needs additional investment.

### **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\$)**

\$461,960.00

#### **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)*

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- 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)*

**A. Frankfurt Zoological Society (\$55,000) for management and logistical support for the project. Local contribution in kind and labour from communities (\$61,050)**

**B Karl Kubul Stiftung (\$40,670) German Ministry of Development \$305,240 provided additional support for livelihood development in terms of beekeeping and honey production, for capacity building of the GC Council and monitoring and evaluation**

**C**

### **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](http://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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