

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi- Lilongwe Branch
Project Title:	Advocating for Awareness of Forest Degradation and Policies and Procedures in Conducting Environmental Impact Assessments in and around Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves
Grant Number:	64724
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
Grant Amount:	\$149,988.00
Project Dates:	July 01, 2014 - September 30, 2017
Date of Report:	November 14, 2017

Implementation Partners

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

- 1. Department of National Parks and Wildlife: key stakeholders in enforcement of policies and guidelines in National Parks and Wildlife reserves**
- 2. Department of Forestry: key stakeholders in enforcement of policies and guidelines especially in forest reserves.**
- 3. Environmental Affairs Department: the leading government that has the mandate to develop EIA guidelines.**
- 4. Coordination Unit for Rehabilitation of the Environment: Civil Society Organization with expertise in policy advocacy and communication**
- 5. Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy: Civil Society Organization with expertise in policy advocacy and communication**
- 6. Media houses: to ensure publication and dissemination of the information to the appropriate target audience.**

Conservation Impacts

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

Protection of Ntchisi and Dedza mountain forest reserves enhanced through establishment of the community based management committees.

The EIA guidelines have been developed and capacity of the government staff has been built to monitor and enforce EIAs in protected areas and key biodiversity areas.

EIA guidelines have been developed and authorized.

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


Impact Description	Impact Summary
3,462 Hectares of Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves, as well restored, well protected and fully functioning ecosystems are providing sustained benefits, products and services to rural and urban communities.	The project has helped to improve the management of the already existing protected areas in Malawi, through the development of EIA guidelines for protected areas in Malawi. The guidelines will help to control adverse negative impacts of infrastructure development in protected areas.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Forest governance and community based forest management on customary land, forest reserves and plantation of Ntchisi Mountain Forest Reserve and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserve enhanced.	Village Natural Resources Management Committees have been formed and their capacity built to take part in the management of the key biodiversity areas.
Capacity of 30 Department of Forest staff working in and around the IBAs and 15,000 border community members (people) built and strengthened to participate, monitor and enforce EIAs processes.	The communities bordering Dedza and Ntchisi Mountain forest reserves are now fully aware of their responsibility when developers intend to bring infrastructure developments in or around the protected areas. Similarly, the project has trained forest staff, environmental staff, civil society organizations and community based organizations throughout the country to take part in enforcing EIAs in protected areas.

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

- 1. Delays within the Environmental Affairs Department to give feedback during the development of the EIA guidelines for protected areas in Malawi, which also led to failure to implement other activities like EIA monitoring.**
- 2. Successful capacity building of the government staff.**
- 3. Successful development of the EIA guidelines despite that it is not yet published.**
- 4. Strengthened collaboration with the project partners**
- 5. Currency fluctuation led to failure to implement other activities**



Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**Community members taking part in patrolling forest reserve for illegal activities especially in Ntchisi.
Community members taking part to put off forest fires in both Ntchisi and Dedza mountain forest reserves**

The EIA guidelines to act as a trendsetter for other sector specific guidelines.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Advocacy and communication campaign.	1.1	Desk Research conducted on advocacy and communication campaigns conducted in Southern and Eastern Africa for KBAs	A desk research was conducted by WESM, CURE, CEPA to review advocacy campaigns in Malawi, and other organizations in SADC and COMESA countries. Advocacy campaigns which were reviewed, among others, included cases for Lake Natron, Soda ash mining in Tanzania; Letseng wind farm in Lesotho, Mutulanganga woodlands in Zambia and Tana Delta in Kenya. These are among other KBAs in Africa facing great danger due to developmental activities. The strategies from these countries were used as reference point to develop an advocacy strategy for the project.
1	Advocacy and communication campaign.	1.2	Advocacy strategy document developed	A three day workshop was conducted in Salima in September 2014 where the first draft of the advocacy strategy was developed. The meeting was attended by representatives from CURE, DoF (Dedza, Ntchisi, and Regional Forestry Office), and WESM Lilongwe Branch. Two follow up meetings were conducted in November and December 2014. The first meeting was to review the comments that the different stakeholders contributed towards the first draft of the advocacy strategy. The second meeting was about finalizing the strategy. Therefore, the product of the second meeting was a final advocacy strategy. The BirdLife Africa Policy and Advocacy Coordinator also gave some comments that were incorporated in the final document.
1	Advocacy and communication campaign.	1.3	Report on ten awareness raising meetings in Dedza and Ntchisi Districts	Ten awareness meeting were conducted in the project impact areas with the purpose of raising awareness on policies and procedures regarding legislation on conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) that affect the biodiversity of Key Biodiversity Areas, five awareness meetings were conducted in each impact area. Specifically the meetings were organized in order to create understanding among communities on ESIA procedures and their roles in ESIA processes in and around Forest Reserves. These meetings attracted over 2500 people.
1	Advocacy and communication	1.4	Three Policy briefs	Only one policy brief was conducted with the parliamentarians and relevant department directors. The

	campaign.		developed targeting key policy makers	meeting was conducted at Golden Peacock on 6th September, 2016 where Members of Parliament and relevant Heads of Departments (Directors) were addressed that they are an important arm for the guidelines to be authorized and implemented. A total of 26 participants were in attendance.
1	Advocacy and communication campaign.	1.5	Report on stakeholder workshops in Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzuzu	All the relevant stakeholders were consulted and updated on the development of the EIA guidelines.
1	Advocacy and communication campaign.	1.6	Newspaper coverage, television programs, radio programs, social media publicity, online newsletters	Three newspaper articles were published in the nation main newspapers as a follow up of EIA training. No television program was conducted due to funds and the TV programs are expensive (This was affected especially by the fluctuation of the currency). 11 radio programs were aired through Zodiak radio station which has a wider coverage and also preferred by many people. Facebook page (CEPF-Project-WESM-Lilongwe) was created for the purpose of communicating important project updates. Five online newsletters were produced and published during the implementation of this project. These newsletters were shared through emails, Facebook and WhatsApp in order to reach a wider audience. The newsletters were very instrumental to disseminate the project achievements to stakeholders. Several recipients were very grateful for the information that the newsletters carried.
2	Support to EAD in promotion of KBA and forestry EIA guidelines and mitigation measures	2.1	Draft EIAs for KBAs and Forests as protected areas developed	A workshop was organised from 9-13th September 2014 to develop a zero draft ESIA guidelines for Protected Areas. Involved during the meeting were representatives from EAD and WESM. Three EIA guidelines were adopted for reference during the development processes. These were; Sanitation EIA guideline, Generic EIA guidelines and Irrigation EIA guidelines for Malawi. By the end of this meeting a zero draft of the guidelines was developed and was shared to EAD, WESM, CURE, DoF and DPNW.
2	Support to EAD in promotion of KBA and forestry EIA guidelines and mitigation	2.2	Report on review of KBAs and forestry EIAs by stakeholders	A two days' workshop was conducted from 2-3 December 2014 in Salima to review and finalize the zero draft for the EIA guidelines for protected areas. Present during the meeting were representatives from WESM, CURE, DFO (Ntchisi and Dedza), RFO, DPNW, and EAD.

	measures		with participants disaggregated by gender	By the end of the two days' workshop the group came up with an improved draft of the guidelines which was presented to the Head of EIA section, Environmental Affairs Department.
2	Support to EAD in promotion of KBA and forestry EIA guidelines and mitigation measures	2.3	Report on EAD's final sector specific EIAs	<p>A three days' workshop took place from 25th to 27th of April, 2017 at Ngolowindo TDC in Salima district aiming at doing final review of the ESIA guidelines for protected areas. In attendance were stakeholders from Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Forestry, WESM and Environmental Affairs Department. This was one of the very crucial activities in the development of the guidelines since there was a legal sector from EAD that pointed out to several legal flaws of the document.</p> <p>Several informal meetings have happened between WESM and EAD that have led to the final ESIA Guidelines for protected areas in Malawi. The sector director in EAD reviewed the documents, gave their comments which WESM and EAD worked. Finally the product is ready to be published and utilized by different stakeholders.</p>
3	Capacity building for government personnel, CBOs, media, and community members	3.1	Training manuals on EIAs	<p>Several meetings took place that led to the development of the EIA training manual. The first meeting involved development of the working draft and composition of a task force. The task force conducted two meetings to come up with the final training manual. The manual was demarcated in 5 modules as follows:</p> <p>MODULE 1: What is the Environment? A brief overview of environmental problems in Malawi</p> <p>MODULE 2: Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>MODULE 3: Integrating Environmental Impact Assessment in Project cycle</p> <p>MODULE 4: Environmental Impact Assessment process in Malawi</p> <p>MODULE 5: Strategic environmental impact assessment</p>
3	Capacity building for government personnel, CBOs, media, and community members	3.2	Report on three training workshops to 150 people with reporting on participants disaggregated by gender	Three training workshops took place in Central, Northern and Southern regions with 59, 52 and 56 participants respectively. The participants came from all the districts in Malawi and they included government staff forestry and environmental staff, CSOs, and CBOs. The facilitators were the Environmental Affairs Department and journalists. The participants were also encouraged to monitor and enforce the EIA guidelines that have been developed.

				<p>The second ESIA training workshop took place in the northern region of Malawi in Mzuzu on 21st April, 2016 which attracted 52 participants. This training was represented by delegates from government departments and civil society at district level; hence it covered the following districts: Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphi, Mzimba, Nkhatabay and Likoma.</p> <p>Three ESIA training workshops were conducted. The first training was conducted in Lilongwe at Bridgeview Hotel on 22nd March, 2016 with 59 people in attendance. Participants came from all the districts in the central region of Malawi which includes: Lilongwe, Nkhatakota, Salima, Dedza, Mchinji, Ntcheu and Kasungu.</p>
4	Support to EAD and DoF to conduct environmental audits and implement EIA guidelines	4.1	4 baseline and compliance surveys and 4 EIA audits for projects in and around Ntchisi and Dedza Forest Reserves.	<p>Environmental compliance audit and ESIA/ESMP monitoring were conducted in the protected areas for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water abstraction schemes and reservoirs • Staff houses and buildings • Road passing through the forest reserve • Electric fence • Bridge projects <p>Checklist questionnaire was prepared and used to collect data from the fields. The checklist highlighted the important parameters considered when doing ESIA process. Observations were made on the sampled sites to appreciate what was happening within the project areas, and some stakeholders and community members were interviewed at random. The audit team comprised of representatives from WESM, EAD, DNPW and DoF.</p> <p>During this exercise both positive and negative environmental impacts were established based on such parameters as: legal requirements, environmental impacts, socio-economic impacts and tourism impacts with focus on the environment, people and wildlife of the KBAs .</p>
4	Support to EAD and DoF to conduct environmental audits and implement EIA guidelines	4.2	Report on mitigation measures taken by EAD for non-EIA compliant projects in and	<p>There was one project (bridge construction in Ntchisi forest reserve) that was not complying with the standards and it was due to political influence. The project was implemented by the community members and the remedy was that the community members were taught to follow right procedures in order to set up a project in the protected areas. On the other hand it was discovered that</p>

			around Ntchisi and Dedza Forest Reserves.	Audits have not been taking place on the infrastructure projects set in protected areas. The EAD took note of such shortfall and mentioned to take initiative to conduct regular audits and monitoring exercises of the projects in the protected areas.
4	Support to EAD and DoF to conduct environmental audits and implement EIA guidelines	4.3	Draft terms of reference, provided to EAD, for industry to follow when conducting EIAs	These are included in the ESIA Guidelines for protected areas that have been developed. Therefore, for details refer to the attached EIA GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS IN MALAWI
4	Support to EAD and DoF to conduct environmental audits and implement EIA guidelines	4.4	Report on ten monitoring exercises for EIA processes	This exercise is an on-going exercise that is beyond the scope of this project since it requires that the ESIA guidelines for protected areas to be published first. Unfortunately, the ESIA Guidelines have not yet been published.
4	Support to EAD and DoF to conduct environmental audits and implement EIA guidelines	4.5	WESM documents lessons learnt from 10 monitoring exercises	This was not done due to failure to conduct monitoring exercises.
5	Ntchisi and Dedza community empowerment to engage in EIA processes	5.1	Ntchisi and Dedza community empowerment to engage in EIA processes through training workshops with reporting on participants disaggregated by gender	<p>Two training workshops of two days each took place at GVH Mpalare and Kasumbu in T/A Kasumbu IN Dedza district respectively. The first training took place on 23rd – 24th May 2016 at GVH Kasumbu Court and on 25th – 26th May, 2016 at Mpalare CCAP Church. A total of 54 people participated where 32 were women and 26 were men. In attendance during the meetings were the Group Village Heads (GVH), VNRMCs members, Area Development Committee (ADC) chairpersons, Community Based Organizations representatives.</p> <p>In Ntchisi the training was conducted from the 23rd August to 28th August in three Traditional Authorities namely Nthondo, Kasakula and Vusojere. The participants came from 16 clusters and 1 CBO. The training lasted for 6 days; two days each Traditional authority. The main aim of the training was to build the capacity of communities on leadership and empowering the cluster committees on</p>

				the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment on the development that occur in and around protected areas. The training was facilitated by Dedza Environmental District Officer, Ntchisi field facilitator, LUANAR Attachment students, Forest Assistant, Forest Guards and community volunteers.
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

EIA guidelines for protected areas in Malawi EIA training manual that was used during EIA trainings Tidziwe za EIA (EIA campaign booklet). These were distributed to community members to appreciate the information that was being shared during the awareness campaigns. Online Newsletters which were shared to people that have the issues of environment at heart Advocacy strategy that helped to keep track of the project implementation Radio programs that reached a lot of people


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

- 1. The communities that were involved in this project were very cooperative due to the free and prior informed consent. This was very important in the successful implementation of the project.**
- 2. Close collaboration with all partners and stakeholders in the implementation of activities proved to increase the success in implementation of activities. Involving different stakeholders allows varied contributions and ideas.**
- 3. Activities that directly support community livelihoods increase participation of communities in project activities. This was evident in Dedza where communities requested that even though the project is focusing much on policy issues they would want to also learn on energy saving stoves and tree nursery establishment.**
- 4. Working with government departments sometimes slows down implementation of project activities as government processes are very slow and takes time to be achieved. More patience is needed in working with government departments. There is need for continuous and close follow ups with the contact persons of the government departments.**
- 5. To achieve meaningful change in advocacy projects there is great need to allocate more time and enough resources in terms of implementation of activities since they may not be straightforward procedures.**

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6. Political influence is one of the greatest challenges and needs to be taken into consideration if proper procedures are to be followed especially in protected areas.
 7. It is good for communities to be trained how to take part in the taking care of their natural resources and environment this helps to impart in them a sense of ownership and promote unity among communities.
 8. The response from people that received the newsletter has enlightened about the importance of communication. Many people would like to know what is happening in the organization. It also helps to raise awareness and civic educate people on several matters.
 9. The use of performances such as drama, songs and poems, and mobilising communities using the Public Address system attracted more participation from the surrounding communities to attend the meetings. VNRMC members were motivated by taking part in the dramas, comedies and poems.
 10. Radio programs were one of the major channels of effective communication of information to the masses.

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.

1. The government and other stakeholders in conservation have really appreciated the development of the ESIA Guidelines for protected areas in Malawi. For instance, the Environmental Affairs Department has pointed out that these ESIA Guidelines for protected areas will be trendsetter for other sector specific guidelines in Malawi. Development of these guidelines has brought relief to the government in its plans to develop sector specific guidelines. Just to mention it that despite that the government had plans to develop sector specific guidelines, the ESIA guidelines for protected areas was not one of the sector specific guidelines to be developed.
2. The policy makers such as the parliamentarians were not intensely engaged and the Office of the President and His Cabinet (OPC) was not engaged as well. This was due to the limited funds and also due to both technical and financial complexity of engaging the OPC. Therefore, it is important next time that the technicality and financial part of it be well calculated to avoid such kind of challenges.

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

1. Capacity building of the government staff, community members, CBOs and CSOs to enforce and monitor EIA guidelines for projects in protected areas. This is both social and environmental safeguard.
2. Development of EIA guidelines to safeguard both social and environment aspects.

3. Strengthened and wide partnership with relevant stakeholders for environmental safeguard
4. awareness raising for EIAs in protected areas to safeguard environmental aspects.

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\$)

\$82,397.00

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)*
- 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)*

Project Co-funding:

Counterpart funding from IBAs project - \$75,000

Administration, thus vehicle, office space, motorbike, photocopier/printers, office furniture - \$7,397

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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