

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Ghana Wildlife Society
<b>Project Title:</b>	Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-100805
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Guinean Forests of West Africa
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$96,323.50
<b>Project Dates:</b>	August 01, 2017 - January 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	April 17, 2019

### Implementation Partners

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

**National Development Planning Commission:** They collaborated in developing a joint checklist to update the national guidelines for mainstreaming ecosystem services and man and biosphere reserve concept into the development planning process at the district level.

**Atwima Mponua District Assembly:** Through a signed memorandum of understanding with GWS and provided personnel to be trained to revise District Medium-Term Development Plans to reflect how ecosystem services will be given attention in their plans.

**Ahanta West District Assembly:** They provided personnel from their respective districts to be trained.

**Abuakwa South District Assembly:** They provided personnel from their respective districts to be trained.

**Resource Trust:** They participated in all stakeholder meetings and formed part of the project steering team.

**Working Group on Forest Certification:** They participated in all stakeholder meetings and formed part of the project steering team.

**Ghana Rubber Estates Limited:** They participated in workshops and meetings towards signing an MOU to advance sustainability commitments.

**Forestry Commission:** Staff of the Resource Management Support Centre of the Forestry Commission participated in field work related to the ecosystem services assessment

## 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 contributed to the implementation of sustainable management practices in the supply chain of a key actor in the private sector, the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited which is into establishment of rubber plantations and export of processed rubber. This was achieved through technical advice and training provided by the Ghana Wildlife Society and Resource Trust to plantation outgrowers. Selected sites of high conservation value have attracted improved protection to serve as refugial habitats for species of conservation interest and provide the required ecosystem services.**

**The project has resulted in updating of national guidelines and checklist for preparation of District Medium-Term Development Plans by the National Development Planning Commission in partnership with the Ghana Wildlife Society and the Environmental Protection Agency. The guidelines will have a long lasting impact of Integrating ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation into the overall local development planning. With the assessments of the two sites for values of ecosystem services, other alternative uses of the forest such as tourism and other services have attracted the attention of government in the wake of government's quest to develop bauxite resources in one of the project sites (Tano-Offin Forest Reserve). Through the project, advocacy was stepped up to persuade government to expung the Atewa Range Forest Reserve from mining plans and for government to pass the Wildlife Resources Management Bill which is now in its final stages of passage.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least 1 conservation-related policy of the Ghana government is informed or influenced as a result of the assessment of ecosystem services and policy outreach with decision makers through policy briefs and engagements by the end of 2023.	The project has contributed to shape the ongoing policy reforms that are expected to allow farmers to enjoy full benefits from nurturing naturally occurring trees on their farms. The project has advocated for the passage of the wildlife resource management bill which is being considered by cabinet. Other recommendations from the ecosystem services assessment include the enforcement of strategic environmental impact assessment which government has committed to consider a priority.
improved systems put in place by public decision makers to manage the three sites by the end of 2025 as a result of management responses that reduce human pressures, and the case for implementing appropriate responses strengthened after public decision-makers realize values of ecosystem services provided by the three KBAs.	After the implementation of the project, the need has arisen to update the forest management plan for Cape Three Points Forest Reserve to be able to implement strategies that will address current conservation challenges facing the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
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<p>At least 3 public policies/local development plans and 1 private private entity engaged in forestry in the Ghana Togo conservation corridor incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation in business practices at local/ sub-national levels by the year 2019.</p>	<p>One private business, the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) was formally engaged to upgrade their conservation practices through capacity building of rubber outgrowers. There is an existing MoU between GWS and GREL which spells out the activities and assistance that each partner will play to ensure sustainable forest management practices towards biodiversity conservation at Cape Three Points Forest Reserve. Ecosystem services outcomes and indicators have been introduced into the National development planning guidelines to ensure all district plans take ecosystem services and the man and biosphere reserve concept into account when preparing their medium-term development plans. Three District Assemblies, Atwima Mponua, East Akim/Abuakwa and Ahanta West District Assemblies successfully revised their plans. The revised plans will ensure that the districts puts better measures in place to protect their forests and ensure the sustainability and protection forest biodiversity to provide ecosystem services.</p>
<p>Site specific and locally-relevant biodiversity information is generated on 2 KBAs and mainstreamed into at least 3 District/Municipal Assembly plans/policies and business practices of 1 private company at the landscape level.</p>	<p>The project has contributed the most recent data on the ecosystem values of the two project KBAs, making a case for local government to mainstream ecosystem services and biodiversity into district medium-term development plans. Workshops were organised for Ahanta West (Cape Three Points Forest Reserve); East Akyem/Abuakwa South (Atewa Forest Reserve); Atwima Mponua (Tano-Offin Forest Reserve) District Assemblies to assist them to identify gaps in their plans for revision and submission to the National Development Planning Commission. Copies of the project report and guidelines for mainstreaming ecosystem services into local planning have also been shared with respective District Assemblies to assist them in deciding and approving development projects.</p>
<p>At least 1 regulation in the mining, agriculture and forestry sector is amended to incorporate biodiversity conservation provisions as a result of engagements with public decision makers by 2019.</p>	<p>Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) Act has been passed by parliament. This Act is supposed to facilitate the establishment of a corporation to manage the extraction of bauxite and any related activities. GIADEC is supposed to identify strategic partners for the extraction and refining of bauxite reserves, creating an integrated aluminium industry. The project engaged with the process to ensure the necessary environmental and social safeguards are secured to protect nature and people.</p>

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



**Challenges:**

- 1. The private sector was bit hesitant and suspicious of entering into partnership with an NGO to promote sustainability practices during the project. This challenge was surmounted by working through Resource Trust, an NGO which has worked with the company in the past. The lesson learnt was that it takes time for the private businesses to build trust with Civil Society. The private actors need full assurance that their weaknesses will not be exposed and used against them by civil society organisations.**
- 2. Some communities were not willing to give out information during the preliminary scoping assessment. This could be as a result of several engagements with communities in the past which did not yield any concrete outcome or benefit to the communities.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Information and capacity on ecosystem services is generated for 2 KBAs for mainstreaming into 3 local District Assembly Medium-Term Development planning and policy	1.1	500 copies of ecosystem services assessment report published	500 copies of Ecosystem services assessment report have been printed, circulated to key stakeholders and published online.
1	Information and capacity on ecosystem services is generated for 2 KBAs for mainstreaming into 3 local District Assembly Medium-Term Development planning and policy	1.2	500 copies of guidelines for mainstreaming biodiversity into the development of District Assembly Medium-Term Plans of 3 KBAs printed and circulated among at least 50 institutions.	Over 500 copies of the guidelines have been printed and being circulated among stakeholders
1	Information and capacity on ecosystem services is generated for 2 KBAs for mainstreaming into 3 local District Assembly Medium-Term Development planning and	1.3	District Assembly training workshop report and capacity assessment before and after the training	A report has been generated after the training workshop for District Assembly planning officers. Capacity assessment was not carried out at the end of the training but success was measured by the extent to which the revised medium-term plans captured ecosystem services and environmental issues.

	policy			
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.	2.1	Concluded and signed partnership agreements with 1 private institution towards promotion of best practices in plantation forestry	Partnership Agreement has been concluded but yet to be signed by the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited.
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.	2.3	Report of 1 information exchange session reflecting increased awareness, knowledge and different experiences of stakeholders through dissemination of lessons among at least 15 institutions.	Information exchange session report has been generated and submitted to CEPF
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of	2.4	Final Ecosystem services assessment validation workshop report that takes on board stakeholder inputs and	Ecosystem services assessment validation workshop report has been completed and shared with CEPF.

	ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.		concerns	
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.	2.5	500 copies of report on values on ecosystems services printed and circulated to raise awareness among at least 30 public institutions to integrate biodiversity conservation into decision making/planning.	500 copies of Ecosystem services assessment report has been printed, circulated to key stakeholders and published online.
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.	2.6	200 copies of policy briefs on key policy issues and recommendations identified based on desk policy study are printed and circulated among at least 50 key institutions (Parliament, Ministries, private sector and NGOs)	300 copies of policy briefs were compiled and printed to cover the themes: agriculture, protected areas and environmental assessment. 67 copies of the policy briefs were circulated to stakeholders during the information exchange session.
2	Collaborative strategies are implemented to	2.2	Partnership agreements/MOUs with at	Partnership agreements were signed with 2 NGOs and 3 District Assemblies towards technical cooperation to implement sustainability commitments and

	disseminate results and capitalize lessons from best practices that facilitates integration of ecosystem services into sustainable production and consumption in public and private sectors.		least 4 NGOs and 3 District Assemblies	mainstreaming ecosystem services.
3	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring for Compliance	3.1	Institutional capacity of Working Group on Forest Certification and Resource Trust evaluated through the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) and Gender Tracking Tool (GTT) have increased	Institutional capacity of Working Group on Forest Certification and Resource Trust was evaluated before and after the project. There was marginal improvement on institutional capacities of the aforementioned partners.
3	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring for Compliance	3.2	Institutional capacity of GWS evaluated through Civil Society Tracking Tool and Gender Tracking Tool have increased	Institutional capacity evaluation for GWS using CSTT was completed. GWS' capacity had increased marginally.
3	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring for Compliance	3.3	Safety risk of the staff conducting field surveys is	Field surveys were completed within 3 months of the project life. There was therefore no need to submit safety risk report every six months.




			minimized as proven by safety equipment and training report and stakeholders are effectively engaged as stated in reports prepared and submitted to CEPF every six months	
3	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring for Compliance	3.4	CEPF financial and programmatic reports are submitted online on time and accurately	All reports have been submitted
3	CEPF Project Management and Monitoring for Compliance	3.5	Report focussing on the project impacts is completed online at the end of project	Project impact report has been completed and submitted online at the end of the project.

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

**The results of the preliminary scoping appraisal during the use of TESSA in assessing ecosystem services was published. The published report (abridged and full reports) can be downloaded from the link <https://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org/GWS%20Abridged%20Legislative%20Report.pdf>. The Ecosystem assessment report can be downloaded from <http://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org>**

## 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

**One of the key lessons learnt is that businesses play a key role in leveraging support and finances towards biodiversity conservation. Relationship and trust with private business actors takes a bit of time to develop. Future projects of this nature must start consultations with the private sector well in advance. Government institutions were very receptive and collaborative, assuring a bright future prospect for government-CSO partnerships towards nature conservation. Some of the government agencies (e.g EPA and the national biosafety authority) were not identified early in the life of the project but found the need to engage them in the advanced stages of the project. A more robust stakeholder analysis is very necessary at the state of project formulation to assure ownership of the deliverables and for getting buy ins when it comes to policy.**

## **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.

**Network structures have been established through the District Assemblies. Planning officers will still collaborate with GWS during the implementation of revised District Medium-Term Development Plans. New information generated from the project is now being used as a reference point and prioritisation of policies and laws for future policy engagements. The results of the project is helping GWS to further engage with other donors to commit more funds to carry out assessments in other forest reserves. The CEPF project has helped GWS to improve on its internal procedures and policies based on the recommendations given after the transaction testing. The Gender and civil society capacity assessment toolkits were found very useful and are being deployed by GWS in selected aspects of its programmes.**

## **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

**Protective equipment and first aid kits were provided to field staff during the field work for assessment of carbon, water related services, cultivated goods and wild goods. Some of the kits include boots, apparels and reflective jackets.**

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

**CEPF must commit more resources to build on the achievements chalked from this project. There are opportunities to engage government and expand policy campaigns based on the results of the ecosystem services assessments in Tano-Offin and Cape Three Points forest reserves.**

## 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\$)**

*\$7,500.00*

**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)*

**The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) provided co-financing for project staff whose salaries were not fully funded by CEPF funds (Project Director and the Policy and Advocacy Officer). Fifty (50%) of the cost was borne by the RSPB.**

## 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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