

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Eld's deer Community Conservation Group in Ban Sanamxai village
Project Title:	Eld's deer Community Conservation Group in Xonnabuly District, Savannakhet Province
Date of Report:	1 November 2012 to 28 October 2013
Report Author and Contact Information	Phaivieng Vongkhamheng pvongkhamheng@yahoo.com

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction:

3. Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the northern limestone highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries.

CEPF Investment Priorities 3.1 Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures.

Grant Amount: US\$ 19,989.90

Project Dates: 1st November 2012- 31st October 2013.

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- District Agriculture and Forestry Office - DAFO – actively supported project planning and implementation; provided patrolling team.
- Local Communities-implemented the activities
- Lao WCA-Provision of technical support, particularly during the early stage of the project
- WWF- contributed to the project proposal
- The media (press, television, and internet) was also an important partner, providing coverage of project activities, including a television spot on Lao Star Channel.

Conservation Impacts

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

The Project provides direct support to a variety of different CEPF priorities. The Savannakhet Eld's deer Sanctuary is located along the Xe Bang Hieng River which is a Priority Corridor of the CEPF as part of the focus on the Mekong River and its tributaries. The conservation of the dry dipterocarp forests and broader activities supporting integrated spatial planning support resource governance within this catchment. It also overlaps with the key biodiversity area in Xonnabuly District (#43), to which it provides potentially important impacts. Eld's deer are listed as a priority mammal for CEPF Investment in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. Following CEPF guidelines the project has provided species-focused conservation action on what may be the last remaining population in Laos in order to address overexploitation, disturbance and loss of key habitats.

The overarching project approach is closely aligned with the CEPF investment priority for Strategic Direction 3. Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the northern limestone highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries. 3.1 Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures and 3.3 conduct targeted outreach and awareness raising for decision makers.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

The Eld's deer Conservation Group has benefit over the past years of the financial and technical support of the WWF. The group has gained in capacity and will take this opportunity to take the lead in the sanctuary management and enhance its long term sustainable financing capacity.

The project goal was to work towards maintaining a sustainable interest in Eld's deer conservation among the local communities and to develop community-base eco-tourism activities as a sustainable financing source of the Eld's deer sanctuary conservation project.

Activities focused on eco-tourism development and benefited from WWF technical support. The project also took over WWF's current support to law enforcement strengthening and Eld's deer monitoring at the end of their project in April 2013 to maintain the necessary pressure against illegal activities and villager's involvement.

Hectares Protected: 93,000 hectares

Species conserved: Eld's deer (*Rucervus eldii siamensis*)

Corridors Created: N/A

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

While the project made excellent progress towards achieving its short-term (1-3 years) impact objectives, the achievement of long-term (3+ years) requires creativity and determination to meet a number of challenges. These include illegal logging, over-hunting, over-harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and burning to provide fresh growth for livestock, all of which are leading drivers of habitat degradation in the Eld's deer Sanctuary. Threats of forest conversion for agricultural expansion (particularly sugar cane and other commercial plantation crops) has been exacerbated by pressure from investment companies from China, Thailand and Vietnam, consistent with broader trends experienced across the region. The Project has met with particular success during this period in regard to the mitigation of these drivers, achieved through the strong, local political support of District and Provincial authorities, who recommend the national-level gazetting of the Sanctuary as a more effective means to mitigate pressure from companies whose influence originates from national and international levels.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The Project has witnessed the galvanization of local-level political power (at the community, District and Province) to maintain the integrity of the Sanctuary against the drivers mentioned above. The project has also achieved broader impacts throughout the Lao PDR by enhancing the capacity of government staff to execute integrated spatial development planning as a tool for reconciling conservation and development objectives for forest in Lao PDR. The project supports particularly the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010, National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy 2004, National Forestry Strategy to the year 2020.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Assessment of some potential of community-based Eld's deer eco-tourism development.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Activity 1.1

Product/deliverable 1.1.

1.1.1 Meeting with all stakeholders and target village for introducing the ecotourism potential project Eld's deer.

The workshop with all stakeholders and target village was held between December 23rd 2012. The primary objective was to discuss about the potential of ecotourism in the Eld's Deer Sanctuary to explain stakeholders and target village to understanding of the potential of community-based Eld's deer eco-tourism development and inform about the activities of the new CEPF small grant project.



Participants

- 2 staff of Xonnabuly District Agriculture Forest Office
- 1 Government of Xonnabuly District
- 2 District Office Natural Resource Environment (DONRE)
- 2 staff of LWCA
- 2 Province Office Natural Resource Environment (PONRE)
- 8 Villagers

1.1.2 Survey on the potential for community-based ecotourism

Meeting with existing key stakeholders included communities, government in different levels, private sectors and NGOs to discuss about the future of the Eld's deer sanctuary and project intervention for target villages especially Ban Sanamxai.

The improvement of community's livelihood in Ban Sanamxai and villages around Eld's deer sanctuary is direct impact to protect and conserve the Eld's deer and its habitat by continuing existing intervention of livelihood projects in Ban Sanamxai and other target villages for example village fish ponds, irrigation dams, community forest conservation zones, at the same time to increase the impact to conservation and enhance conservation awareness for local people sustainable activities should be considered for example: Ecotourism, agro culture, agro tourism, sustainable None Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) harvesting, livestock project and other fishery projects.

Improve the methodology harvest of none timber forest product by introducing sustainable none timber forest product harvesting include management plan. Defining and zoning the forest should cover the whole landscape and do early to ensure the tourism activities would bring less negative impact to habitat and other conservations within the Eld's deer sanctuary.

The development of ecotourism activities in Ban Sanamxai alone is not make big different. To protect and conserve Eld's deer and its habitats, the activities should cover

other potential villages around the Eld's deer landscape and the tourism activities in the area should link with other destinations along the route especially destinations in Champhone district.

The tour development in Ban Sanamxai and around the Eld's deer sanctuary should not longer than 3 days 2 nights tour and tour activities should vary between forest activities and village activities and include night activities.

To support tourism activities project should consider livelihood projects to improve and increase agriculture product especial rice product, fishery (fish pond) and crop productivities. These projects will directly serve the daily consuming of local people and tourism.

The ecotourism activities in Ban Samnamxai and Eld's deer landscape should include relevant stakeholders from the provincial level to ground levels as well as private sectors, ensuring sustainability of the activities.

Challenges of sustainable tourism in Sanamxai village and Eld's deer sanctuary:

The development of sustainable ecotourism in Laos specifically in Savannakhet in challenge as described below:

1. Conservation and livelihood is interconnect, the extreme consume of natural resource and internal and external market demand impact the balance between conservation and livelihood.
2. In Ban Sanamxai the heavily wood utilization is not yet present but in the other villages around the Eld's deer landscape should be taken into account, for example in Ban Songhong village people cut the wood for Chaco to sale for their livelihood.
3. The insufficiency rice consuming in Ban Sanamxai may lead people to do illegal activities such as logging, heavily collecting none timber forest products and hunting. Increasing agriculture productivities and alternative job should be considered.
4. Sustainable tourism is one of approach in Laos that presents in many conservation project, however it does not yet fully impact conservation and income from tourism has not presented in individual household. Ban Sanamxai and Eld's deer sanctuary sustainable approach should address both conservation and livelihoods.
5. Eld's deer sanctuary and Ban Sanamxai village are both suitable for sustainable tourism but without connecting to other destination along the road it would not attract tourists.
6. With sustainable tourism in Ban Sanamxai and around Eld's deer sanctuary other development projects might not appear in that area and village.
7. Tourism in Ban Sanamxai village and Eld's deer sanctuary should be supported by the private sector and local government.

8. Basic element of tourism service requires basic facilities (accommodation, transportation, food information and quality of products).

1.1.3 Meeting the presenting the outcomes of the potential of community based ecotourism.

Community based ecotourism activity is considered as a sustainable financing source for the Eld's deer sanctuary conservation project. The workshop presenting the outcomes of the potential of community-based ecotourism was held on July 2013.



Component 2 Planned: Enhanced awareness and capacity for local communities in the Eld's deer Conservation.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Activity 2.2.

Product/deliverable 2.2.

2.2.1. Provide some education materials for school children and villagers

The project established Village Conservation Teams in each of the 3 target villages. The Village Conservation Team is a patrol team composed of 14 men (villagers, militia, police, foresters, and teachers) that received training in patrolling and data recording techniques. The project supplied each team with data forms to allow for systematic recording of patrol data. Each team is responsible for patrolling within the village patrol boundaries, and usually conducts patrols once or twice per month.



Village Conservation Team in uniforms provided by the project

Village Conservation Teams focus their efforts on searching for signs of and persons engaging in illegal activities. These activities include: carrying guns into the sanctuary for hunting purposes, setting snares, burning grass, cutting trees, and expanding rice paddies. When the

teams encounter an offender, they report the case to DAFO officials. The offender is then processed either by DAFO or PAFO authorities, receiving a warning, fine, or trial, depending on the severity of the infringement.

2.2.2. Dissemination of national laws, sanctuary regulations in 4 target villages surrounding the sanctuary.

Public education

The extension activity was conducted in 5 villages and 2 schools within the sanctuary with the participation of DAFO staff and villagers on May to June 2013 with the total audiences of 476 people including 245 women.



Component 3 Participatory monitoring of Eld's deer, and threats (measure the success)

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Activity 3.3.

Product/deliverable 3.3.

3.3.1 Assessment of patrolling, and village sighting data to estimate the level of threat from poaching.

Participatory monitoring of Eld's deer, and threat

The objective of law enforcement monitoring is to assess the patrolling efforts and level of threats to the Eld's deer and its habitat as well as to the PA at large. We used MIST-GIS, a computer-based program designed for tracking effective law enforcement. It is a combined data entry, data analysis and Geographical Information System (GIS) software program, designed to display and analyze this data geographically.

The joint-Enforcement teams (JET), including villagers and Xonnabuly districts (DAFO, Police, Military) were trained and equipped with GPS, compass, maps, and data forms to conduct monthly foot- and road-patrols across the Sanctuary (both inside/outside core

zone) to monitor closely illegal activities such as poaching, entering core zone, habitat encroachment, timber cutting, agricultural expansion outside the managed zones, and others. These teams generally check illegal activities throughout the sanctuary. In addition, village patrolling teams (VPT) in three target villages (Ban Maisanamxai, Tangvainam and Nongsonghong) focused their foot-patrol efforts at least one or two times per month at the core zone and within their village boundaries (however, if necessary they do respond to any illegal reports at village levels) to stop encroachment into the core zone by villagers, deer poaching, harvests of NTFPs and timbers, and other activities.

Results;

1. The Joint-Enforcement team

The JET regularly does patrol once a month across the Sanctuary, but particularly focus its major efforts on patrolling inside the sanctuary and at the core zone. The results of patrolling were summarized in table.

Month	Person	PATROLS	DAYS	NIGHTS	Distance (km)
January	6	1	24	11	252.282822
February	6	1	24	11	252.282822
March	6	1	18	9	153.282822
April	6	1	30	14	281.282822
May	6	1	24	11	252.282822
June	6	1	24	11	252.282822
	count = 36	sum = 6	sum = 144	sum = 67	sum = 1443.696932

Table: Patrolling Efforts during 6 months

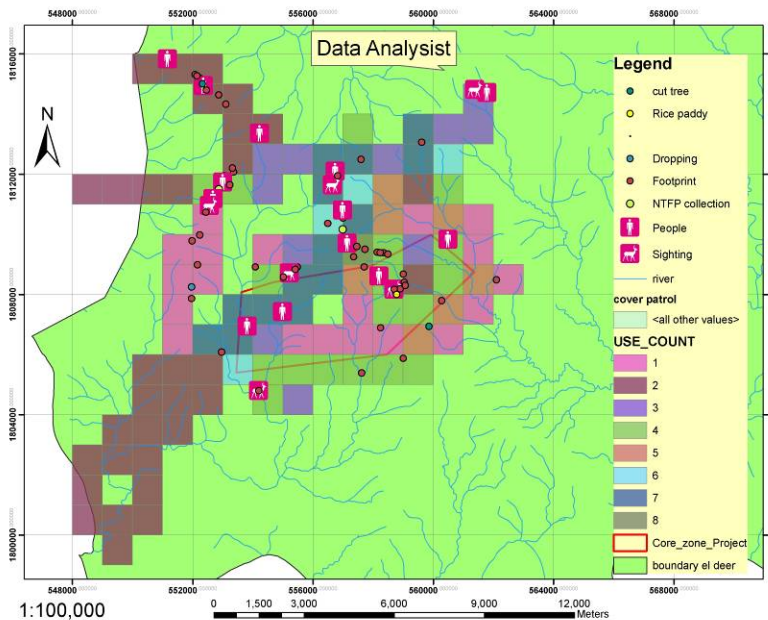
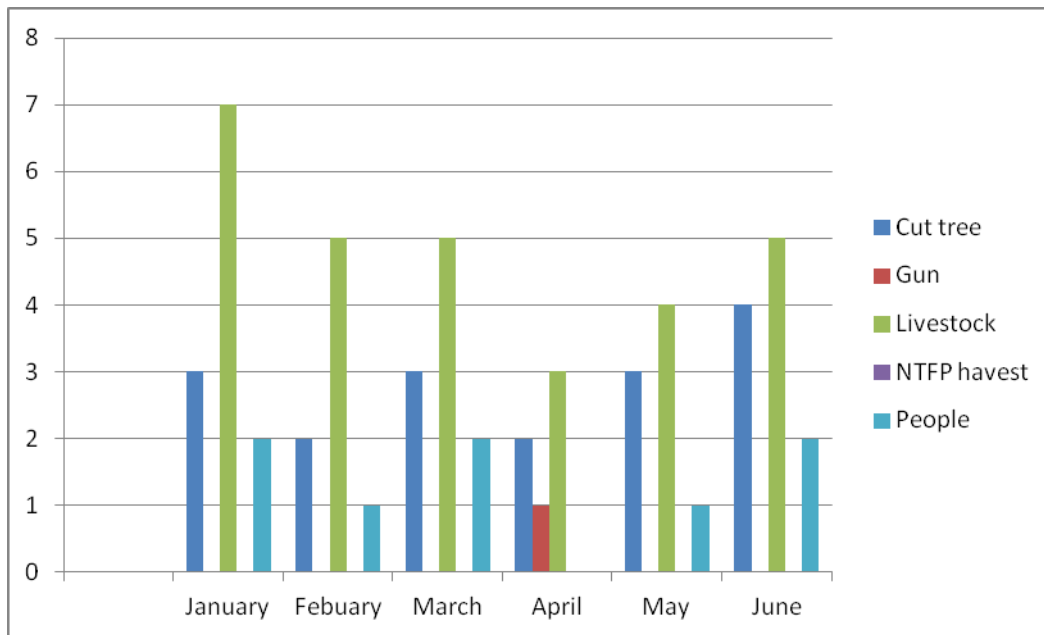


Figure 3. GMIST data base/Foot Patrol Coverage

Figure4. Threats recorded by JET, MIST



3.3.2 Line transect surveys to assess Eld's deer numbers and improve our understanding of the population

Monitoring of the Deer Population

In order to assess the effectiveness of project and community interventions on the conservation of the Eld's deer population, the project regularly collected data on the Eld's deer population. Data was collected through three techniques: villager-based monitoring, patrol team records and line transects.



Villager Monitoring

Villagers from the 3 target villages were asked to report all Eld's deer sightings in and around their respective villages. Members of the Village Conservation Teams are provided sighting data forms, and were trained on data recording techniques. Whenever a villager makes a sighting, a member of the Village Conservation Team fills out a form and submits it to the project.

Patrol Team Monitoring

During their bi-monthly patrols, the Village Conservation Team patrollers also collect Eld's deer sign and sighting data. The project trained several members from each team on how to recognize deer signs, and on basic navigation and data recording techniques. The project supplies the Village Conservation Teams with patrol data forms that include both illegal activity and deer sign/sighting information.

Table 1: Eld's Deer Population Monitoring Results

No	Description	Number of Eld's deer population	Year
1	The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2002, a population of approximately 6-20 deer were thought to exist in a 100 km ² area of the Sanctuary.	Approximately 6-20 deer	2002
2	The results from forest patrolling is more realistic and very close to numbers of deer reported earlier (30 individuals in 2004, Ounmany et al 2004), WCS	30 individuals	2004
3	From the village monitoring and patrolling team monitoring by WWF	Then numbers of deer are slightly increased up to about 40 individuals	2008-2009
4	From line transect survey, villager monitoring and patrolling monitoring by WWF	Then numbers of deer are slightly increased up to about 60 to 80 individuals	2010 -2012
5	From the village monitoring and patrolling team monitoring	Then numbers of deer population recorded are slightly increased up to about 65 to 80 individuals	2013

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that

would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

The project achieved the greatest success through strengthening the awareness and capacity of the local government offices and villagers in integrating sustainable development planning into the conservation process thus improving long-term management and protection of the site. Without this project support to planning, patrolling and village activities there is likely to be a continuing spiral of habitat degradation and conversion leading to not only the loss of the remaining Dry Forest, and its unique fauna and flora, but also to further rural poverty amongst the communities. The project supported villages in the implementation of their assessment of some potential of community-based Eld's deer eco-tourism development, enhanced awareness and capacity for local communities in the Eld's deer and participatory monitoring of Eld's deer providing specific capacity building and conservation activities related to village level natural resource management and sustainable development, and patrolling efforts.

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

The project's success was dependent on the cooperation with local communities and the district for the implementation of all activities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Community understanding in the management of resources, and that of other stakeholders at various levels (from local communities, district and provincial government) have been intimately involved during every stage of the project activities. Monthly meeting have been held with stakeholders at the village level to ensure their close cooperation and buy-in, and to solicit their feedback regarding management systems and project progress.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Government counterparts		\$ 2,000	Government counterparts will contribute worth of staff time into the project
Lao WCA	Partner ship	\$ 1,000	Lao WCA contribute in staff support and logistics, which include salary for technical staff involved in the project and other services.

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****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The project is working with local villages to develop a sustainable resource management plan within the sanctuary. This includes management of farming, livestock, and NTFP collection activities. No new risks have been developed so far.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The following actions were taken to ensure social and environmental safeguards in the implementation of the project:

- Local communities in Ban Sanamxai village were encouraged to participate in all process of management and decision making in the project.
- Allow for sustainable use of resources to support local livelihood in the sanctuary.
- Field activities were led by local villagers, all of whom worked voluntarily.
- Encouragement of conduct of traditional conservation practice.
- Core zone was well-managed by villagers to protect and endangered species like Eld's deer.

- Habitat diversity was maintained and enhanced through project activities.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	The 93,000 hectares sanctuary in which 2,260 hectares is core zone	CEPF support 93,000 hectares	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. The project focuses most activities in the core zone of the sanctuary, mainly in seven target villages.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	None	None	None	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	Indo-burma	At least 93,000 ha.	The impacts of conservation interventions for this project will significantly contribute to whole Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot key biodiversity area # 43, along the Xe Bang Hieng River which falls under the Priority of the Mekong and it's Tributaries
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes			The projects focus activities in 93,000 ha. however the surrounding areas are also protected through public awareness, law enforcement but cannot identify the size
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes			All the community gain benefit. The project directly targets seven villages with an estimated total population of 7,279 people in Xonnabuly district.

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

Table 1: Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

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

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

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Based on recent discussions with the villagers and district and provincial government staff members regarding the impending completion of the project, it is clear that there is strong support for ongoing work with the Eld's deer. The local stakeholders have demonstrated remarkable progress in their capacity to carry out conservation activities and would like to see additional growth in their technical and managerial capacity. In particular, the communities have asked for greater emphasis on livelihood-based conservation within the project area as an important focus during potential future project phases II.

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.ceph.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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