

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Navadarshan Public Charitable Trust (NPCT)
Project Title:	Threatened and endemic freshwater fishes of the Southern Western Ghats: Improving local capacity to link conservation and livelihoods
Date of Report:	3 rd March 2015
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CEPF Region: Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot (Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridor)

CEPF Strategic Direction: 1 Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.

Grant Amount: \$ 19998.18

Project Dates: 1st August 2013 to 31st January 2015

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

Conservation Research Group (CRG), St. Albert's College, Kochi, is one of South India's leading academic and research centers committed to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. CRG provided technical inputs regarding the development of methodology and implementation of the project.

Kulathupuzha Temple Advisory Forum: Providing logistical arrangements and helping in the implementation of the project. The committee also provided help regarding the development of management plan and aided in setting up of **Thirumakkal - Protection Force** a forum devoted to the conservation and management of the threatened and endemic fishes.

Conservation Impacts

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

The project also created a network among the stakeholders and started **Thirumakkal Protection Force** as part of the project which took up the responsibility of conservation and management of the threatened endemic fishes in the region. **Kulathupuzha Temple Advisory Forum** has agreed to continue the monitoring of the fishes of Kulathupuzha and has also agreed to voluntarily devote time to ensure the implementation of the Management plan suggested by the project.

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

1. The project created an awareness about the importance of the fishes found in the region the people were unaware about the biological importance of these fishes and also created an

awareness that fish cannot be protected only by providing food, and imposing ban on fishing but also by enhancing the water quality to prevent deterioration and riparian cover.

2. By working with the communities the project developed solutions to overcome threats in shorter term like keeping away the plastic from the river as well as long-term solutions like planting of fig trees on the banks of the river so that the pristine habitat of the fishes can be brought back to normal.

3. **Participatory Resource Monitoring** of freshwater fishes in the region helped local communities evaluate the biodiversity loss that occurred in the region in the recent past, which helped them to think about the necessity of conserving the fishes as they are part of their life.

4. Data of the monitoring was compiled (Appendix 1) and was submitted to the concerned policy makers like Member of Parliament and to the Chairman Kerala State Biodiversity Board and Principal Chief conservator of forest (Appendix 2) by the stakeholders themselves, along with the management measures to be adopted in the site.

5. A detailed flowchart of the monitoring and management has been prepared (Appendix 3).

6. The project activity empowered local level organization like the Kulathupuzha Temple Advisory Forum to actively involve themselves in natural resource management and environmental protection.

7. The project has strengthened community-based natural resource management by the concerned stakeholders by creating awareness about the biodiversity loss that occurred in the region and created an ownership among the people so that the conservation efforts can be taken forward without any financial support.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: NIL

Species Conserved: *Tor khudree* and *Hypselobarbus thomassi*

Corridors Created: NIL

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

The project failed to take up conservation actions in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve as the Department of Forest and Wildlife denied permission to work. In Kulathupuzha, with peoples' participation, the project created a monitoring program for the threatened fishes of the region. As a short term success the project created awareness about the conservation and management of threatened fish fauna. The projects also created a committee to take forward the monitoring program and implementation of the management plan. The project empowered the local community to take up the monitoring program as well as peoples patrol along the sides of the river to prevent illegal fishing. People of Kulathupuzha now take up the responsibility of conserving the threatened fishes of the region which is a major breakthrough which can sustain the project for longer term. Mass petition written by the communities is a proof that the people has taken up the responsibility (Appendix 4, CEPF technical Report)

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

When we designed the project we never thought that the people will take up the responsibility completely without any financial support. None of the people in Kulathupuzha demanded financial support for the monitoring as they thought that it's their responsibility to conserve the fishes.

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.

Conservation and management of natural resources through community participation should not be driven by financial support even though the projects requires money in the start to initiate the effort, but a successful project is the one which continues even after the completion of the project without any financial support. These community driven projects have major impact than the one financially supported. The success achieved in Kulathupuzha shows that if we empower the community to identify their needs and priorities they themselves can carry forward the conservation of natural resources.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Community driven conservation and management of natural resources should be flexible as trust between the project team and local community is vital for the success of the project. As the Project design was flexible it aided the team to gain the trust in the community and later come up with monitoring and management measures.

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

As the team approached the communities, not as experts on fish conservation but as people who came to get the view of the stakeholders to develop and implement the management plan it created an enthusiasm among the communities as they felt that the project is for them not for the project team. This open mind approach is vital for conservation projects involving communities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Projects like the one we carried out should have a motto "*By the people, of the people and for the people.*" This approach can aid in long term success of the efforts that we take

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
Temple authorities	Human resource support	Rs. 48,000	As they voluntarily came up with the monitoring we feel that it's a funding as we saved handsome money at the end of the project

***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 first of its kind effort in Western Ghats. Similar effort has been taken place in Vembanad Lake by ATREE. The project tried to replicate the **Deliberative Democratic Management Efforts** (approach taken by Community Environmental Resource Centre, ATREE in Vembanad Lake). The success of the project shows that the project is sustainable and replicable. Mass petition of the community is a proof for the sustainability and replicability for the project.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The project displayed informative grievance and compliance posters at the field sites as part of the social safeguard policies also community consultation was carried out at the field site to enable the social safeguard policies of CEPF.

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 1st August 2013 to 31st January 2015 (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.	NO			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NO			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 but the area is not quantifiable			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes but the area is not quantifiable			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NO			

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Monitoring Data Compilations

Appendix 2 – Letters to prominent policy makers from local stakeholders

Appendix 3 – Detailed flowchart of the monitoring and management for fishes in Kulathupuzha.

Appendix 4 – Detailed Technical Report