

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	East African Wildlife Society
<b>Project Title:</b>	Strengthening the Management and Protection of Lake Ol Bolossat, Kenya
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-108997
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Eastern Afromontane
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	2 Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$100,000.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	July 01, 2018 - October 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 31, 2020

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

**The project involved multiple partners including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Land Commission (NLC), County Government of Nyandarua, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Office of Attorney General, Water Resources Authority (WRA), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), National Environment Complaints Committee (NECC), media, Cranes Conservation Volunteers (CCV), Nyahururu Bird Club (NBC), Kipsaina Cranes and Wetlands Conservation Group (KCWCG) and local communities. These partners' involvement varied from activity to activity and were involved depending on the roles they play in the conservation and management of Lake Ol Bolossat. The ministry and office of the Attorney General played an important role, especially in the gazettement process. The media were key in highlighting the key resolutions during the gazettement meeting to ensure accountability. The local community groups such as NBC and CCV were very key in helping with the identification and mobilization of project beneficiaries and the creation of awareness about the project including the distribution of grievance protocol. NMK provided biodiversity baseline information for IMP.**

### CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

- **Final Lake Ol Bolossat Integrated Management Plan produced**

- **A brochure produced and disseminated – A brochure showing the importance of Lake Ol Bolossat in biodiversity conservation and in support local livelihood systems, as well as its threats, was produced at the beginning of the project and disseminated widely to stakeholders. Local communities are now more aware of the worth of the lake and more partners are being attracted to the lake.**
- **Lake Ol Bolossat Community Conservation Group (LOCCOG), an umbrella Community-Based Organisation for local community groups and resource users around Lake Ol Bolossat, formed and legally registered.**
- **Enhanced collaboration with a draft framework in place -the local stakeholders are now cognizant on the need to collaborate in the management and conservation of Lake Ol Bolossat- especially the County Government of Nyandarua (through its directorates) and local community groups have declared their intention to jointly manage lake Ol Bolossat by declaring their roles in the implementation of the new management plan.**
- **4,303.6 ha of Lake Ol Bolossat is now a protected KBA under the Kenyan Laws – The meeting by key government agencies and ministries supported under this project to draw up a road map towards finalizing the gazette process for the lake and subsequent consistent follow-ups on the implementation of the roadmap resulted in the publishing of the legal notice dated July 4th, 2018 gazetted Lake Ol Bolossat as a protected area.**
- **New critical habitats including springs (recharging the lake), breeding and feeding areas for wildlife within and around Lake Ol Bolossat mapped, zoned and documented. Critical habitat mapping largely involved the local community members and led to the discovery of new water points that were not documented in the previous Management Plan neither did they exist in the records by the Water Resources Authority.**
- **Enhanced livelihoods among the local communities living around the Lake. Over 38 local community members (29 men and 9 women) were involved in the socio-economic survey as well as critical habitat and resource mapping around the lake and received cash benefits. The cash received was invested in varied livelihood activities, for example, Mr. Ngotho (an elder who participated in the mapping) bought a dairy goat.**
- **Enhanced ownership and awareness about the lake and its resources and in a number of disciplines. 76 local community members (including 51 men and 25 women) received structured training on disciplines such as group dynamics, co-management of wetlands, resource mobilization, advocacy, networking, and conflict management among others. This was complemented by the exchange visit conducted. Having learned more about the lake and its resources, and the continuous engagements, the communities now feel ownership and have begun implementing a number of interventions around the lake including tree planting, zero grazing, conflict mitigation and management among others.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Lake Ol Bolossat ecosystem health improved as measured by 20% increase in the population of waterbirds by 2022 from the baseline 14,423 individuals as obtained from January 2018 waterbirds Count Report.	The lake has been formally gazetted. Actualizing the gazette process will help deal with the encroachment of the lake and regulate the use of its resources thus improving its health. A management plan for the lake has also been developed and we have begun seeing piecemeal implementation of the same even before the plan is signed. It prescribes strategies and activities to be undertaken to

	address the threats facing the Lake ecosystem. For example, the local community has begun rehabilitating the catchment areas of the lake. The project has also brought about coordination among stakeholders have identified their roles in the implementation of the Plan and have expressed commitments. This will make sure that there is no duplication of efforts. The local community has been trained on the lake and its resources as well as the ecosystem services the lake provides. This has resulted in enhance awareness and appreciation for the lake. Waterfowl counts conducted (coordinated by NMK) in July 2019 recorded 31,751 individuals which is more than double the recorded birds before start of the project. This shows that lake Ol Bolossat is an hotspot for birds. The increase in bird population depicts an improving health of an ecosystem.
4,300 hectares of wetlands protected area formally gazetted	4,303.6ha of Lake Ol Bolossat wetlands is now formally gazetted. The minister in charge of Environment and Forestry declared the lake a protected wetland through a legal notice No. 179 of 2018. This marks the beginning of the gazettement process. A map showing the boundaries of the gazetted area has been produced. The next steps will be to demarcate the boundaries and put beckons. The County Government of Nyandarua should, therefore, liaise with other government agencies such as the National Land Commission to actualize this - this is a pure government process. EAWLS will continue to follow up on this process to ensure this is done.
Co-management agreement between Nyandarua County and Lake Ol Bolossat Community Forum signed and active by 2022	A Draft co-management agreement has been developed, awaiting adoption. It is currently being reviewed by the stakeholders before a final draft is produced and signed. We intend to push for its signing during the launch of the new management plan.

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

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
All the documentation required to finalise the gazette notice declaring Lake Ol Bolossat as a wetland protected area covering 4,300 ha of lake surface area and surrounding riparian zone is completed by the 16th month	EAWLS organized a consultative meeting with key stakeholders on the gazettement process to determine where the process is and develop a road map towards finalizing the documentation required to complete the process. This meeting also sought to clarify the process with the view of coming up with a harmonized approach. Further to this, EAWLS followed up on the implementation of the roadmap and this resulted in availing of all the documentation required to finalise the process leading to the publishing of the legal notice declaring the Lake as a wetland protected area.
The process and structures for practical co-management of lake Ol Bolossat KBA will be in place by the 16th month	Lake Ol Bolossat Community Conservation Group (LOCCOG) - an umbrella CBO for all the local community groups and resource users around Lake Ol Bolossat has been formed and legally registered. This Group was formed through a participatory process. All representatives of the local community groups present accepted to form the umbrella group through a consensus. Officials of LOCCOG and a few community representatives were taken for an exchange visit to Kipsaina Cranes and Wetlands Group in Kitale who are working with KWS to the management of Sasiwa Swamp National Park. LOCCOG has been recognized in the new Management Plan to legitimize it Officials from the County Government of Nyandarua, NEMA, WRA, KFS, NLC, and KWS were trained on co-management of wetlands with the view of them to see the need to adopt a joint management model for the lake. All the stakeholders present agreed to adopt a co-management model in managing Lake Ol Bolossat. Stakeholders identified their interests and roles in the implementation of the new management plan for the lake - This process culminated in a Draft Co-management

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

**Overall, the project was moderately successful in accomplishing the anticipated objectives and goals.**

- 1. Formation of a Local Plan Review Team (LPRT) at the beginning of the project through a participatory process and working with the team throughout the process created ownership. The team was inclusive and representative enough of the stakeholders.**
- 2. The deployment of a negotiated approach in the co-management process resulted in a common understanding on the need to cooperate and collaborate in the management of the lake. The process defined clear roles and mandates while harmonising the overlapping ones among the key stakeholders. Even though the joint management framework is yet to be signed, the stakeholders have now understood their roles in the implementation of the Management Plan, and have expressed commitment to the same.**
- 3. The local community groups/resource users agreed to work together, a process that culminated in the formation and registration of Lake Ol Bolossat Community Conservation Group (LOCCOG) as an umbrella CBO representing the local communities around the Lake. This group has been made known to the stakeholders and will act as liaison to all the groups, coordinate and take stock of what the local community groups do regarding the conservation of Lake Ol Bolossat.**
- 4. Leveraged on local knowledge while empowering the locals economically during the mapping of critical habitats and resources within and around Lake Ol Bolossat as part of the activities under the IMP review process. This made us discover new water points and areas used by birds for breeding within limited resources and time.**
- 5. Conducting structured training to train trainers of trainers (TOTs) coupled with exchange visit have greatly equipped the local community with skills, knowledge and changed their attitude to appreciate the lake more. We have now see local community members volunteering to undertake various conservation activities around the lake and some using forums such as chief *barazas* to train others. Conflicts cases over natural resources have also reduced as reported by chiefs, some of which were also direct beneficiaries of the trainings- this has been attributed to the initiatives undertaken by the local community members to intervene during conflicts having been trained on conflict management.**
- 6. Lake Ol Bolossat is now formally gazetted under the Kenyan laws. we organised a forum for the key government agencies, authorities, ministries and County Government to deliberate and agree on a roadmap in the presence of media journalists for purposes of accountability. As a result, a harmonised approach was conceived and consensus built. EAWLS regularly followed up with those responsible for specific tasks which led to successful implementation of the roadmap. Making the process government driven while holding the government authorities accountable, led to the publishing of the legal notice within the project timelines – an expected outcome.**
- 7. Working closely with other CEPF grantees or stakeholders working in Lake Ol Bolossat helped greatly in streamlining our approaches and use already**

existing structures in implementing the activities. It also made it easier to understand our projects and thus complemented each other's efforts where necessary as well as prudent use of the limited resources available. For example, using the Cranes Conservation Volunteers (CCV) to distribute the Grievance protocol, brochures and to explain to locals how our projects are related.

Despite the above successes, there were also challenges that made us not to realise some of the deliverables

- Declaration of the lake as a protected wetland elicited mixed reactions among the local communities, that is, some locals feared that they may be evicted while others encroached further into the lake with anticipation of compensation. We addressed this through continuous sensitisation of the local communities on the gazettement process and its implications in meetings. We also engaged and trained the local leadership, used them as agents to reaching out to the larger community on the gazettement issue.
- Cost overrun –this derailed us from delivering on some deliverables such as the TV interview and production of the policy briefs. The actual activities in the management plan review process were more than those budgeted for while on co-management, the cost of the consultant was double the budgeted amount. We addressed this through consultation with the CEPF secretariat and by reprioritising the activities. Where savings were made, we re-allocated to cover the deficit on the other budget lines.
- Inadequate human resources and bureaucracy in the government processes. The wetland department of NEMA only has three staff who oversees all the development of management plan of wetlands in Kenya. This made the management planning process slow as in most cases they were either unavailable to attend the meetings or took longer to review the reports.
- Change of the County Government of Nyandarua departmental leadership especially in the department of Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources which we worked with closely. During the entire project period, we had three different ministers who worked in this docket. This challenge was overcome by continues involvement of the Chief officer and directors who never changed in the entire period.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- For many decades, baseline information, especially on biodiversity, has been missing, hence it has been difficult to measure impacts in the lake. During the project period, National Museums of Kenya (NMK) conducted a Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (RBA) for Lake Ol Bolossat to complement our project. The results of the assessment have now provided baseline information against which future impacts will be measured against. This is to be incorporated in the IMP for the Lake. A monitoring framework for biodiversity for the lake now in place.
- It was anticipated that formal publishing of a legal notice gazetting the lake could be achieved in the long term, however, this happened during the project period awaiting operationalization.
- The declaration of the lake as a protected area through a legal notice led to further encroachment by some individuals in anticipation of compensation.

**This will however be addressed when actual boundary demarcation is carried out.**

## PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Support the Gazettement Process	1.1	Roadmap on the gazettelement process.	A road map was developed through a consultative meeting with key stakeholders in the gazettelement process. This meeting was facilitated by a representative from KWS and served as platform through which clarifications on the process were made and a harmonized approach to the gazettelement process agreed on. a report on this was attached previously.
1	Support the Gazettement Process	1.2	List of participants and Minutes of the follow up meetings	Follow-ups on the implementation of the gazettelement roadmap were done through courtesy visits to the responsible offices, phone calls and emails hence the minutes and list of participants not applicable. The roadmap was well implemented leading to the publishing of the legal notice gazetting the lake.
2	Co-Management Arrangements and Management Planning	2.3	Draft co-management agreement between the County Government and the Community Forum	Draft Co-management of lake Ol Bolossat has been developed. in developing this, the stakeholders were trained on co-management of wetlands and with that understanding, they agreed to jointly manage the lake. in drafting the co-management agreement, key stakeholders in managing Lake Ol Bolossat including WRA, NEMA, County Government of Nyandarua, KWS and local community groups were brought together to identify their interests and roles in the implementation of the new management plan. The draft has been produced and is being reviewed by the respective stakeholders before a final agreement is produced. The Draft Co-management agreement is attached separately.
2	Co-Management Arrangements and Management Planning	2.1	Lake Ol Bolossat Integrated Management Plan (IMP)	A semi-final Integrated Management Plan for Lake Ol Bolossat has been developed and validated by stakeholders. Final IMP will be produced once the results of the Biodiversity Assessment done on the lake have been received and incorporated. The process has been highly participatory and was spearheaded by a Local Plan Review Team. The final report will be submitted to NEMA for signing. NEMA has written to the governor Nyandarua County to discuss the Plan, and how the County should facilitate its implementation. Sources from the County Government of Nyandarua indicate that some funds have been allocated towards the launch of the Plan. In the meetings we held with NEMA - wetlands

				department, NEMA indicated that it was in their plan to have the management plan for lake Ol Bolossat developed and therefore they are committed to have the Plan finalised and adopted. (semi-final IMP attached separately)
3	Communication and information sharing	3.2	Brochure about the lake Ol Bolossat	A brochure showing the importance of the lake and the threats it faces was produced and disseminated to stakeholders. It was also posted on our website. (the brochure had been attached previously)
3	Communication and information sharing	3.3	Two policy briefs on gazettement and co-management respectively	Two policy briefs on gazettement and co-management have been developed. The policy briefs identify gaps, and make recommendations based on the lessons learnt and gaps identified. It is expected that the recommendations, if implemented, will help strengthen the management and protection of wetlands in Kenya. The policy briefs will be circulated to stakeholders especially the Kenya wetlands Forum members and posted on our website for public access. Attached
3	Communication and information sharing	3.4	Article about the project submitted to RIT	produced and submitted to RIT
4	Compliance with CEPF Safeguards	4.1	Semi-Annual Report on Process Framework and Social Assessment	prepared and submitted
5	Strengthening of EAWLS	5.1	Completed baseline and endline CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool	Prepared and submitted
5	Strengthening of EAWLS	5.2	Completed Baseline and Final CEPF Gender Tracking Tools	Prepared and submitted
2	Co-Management Arrangements and Management Planning	2.2	Constitution, registration certificate and list of elected officials of a representative Community Forum	The local community groups around Lake Ol Bolossat accepted to form an umbrella forum - Lake Ol Bolossat Community Conservation Group (LOCCOG). A facilitator trained the representatives from the 25 community groups on constitution development. The Group has been formally registered and has 9 officials elected through a secret ballot. The officials are gender-balanced - including People Living with Disability, representative of minority groups, women, youth



				and men. Attached are the constitution, list of officials and registration certificate.
3	Communication and information sharing	3.1	Link to Youtube Video for the TV feature	This was not achieved due to budgetary constraints

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

**Rapid Biodiversity Assessment report (RBA) – National Museums of Kenya carried out an RBA which provided the much-needed baseline information about Lake Ol Bolossat. The assessment focused on seven taxa including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, plants, invertebrates and water quality. The results of this survey will be included in the Management Plan for monitoring future impacts. A monitoring framework for the same has also been developed. Brochure titled “The overlooked jewel of Central Kenya) which highlighted the importance of Lake Ol Bolossat and the threats it faces. Lake Ol Bolossat for a long period of time remained largely unknown. This brochure contributed largely to creating awareness about the Lake and its resources.**

## 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)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

**1. Exchange visits and on-site exhibitions work well in changing the attitude of and triggering positive change among stakeholders especially the local community. During the project, we took LOCCOG members for an exchange visit at Kipsaina Cranes and Wetlands Conservation Group in Kitale to learn the model the group is applying in conserving and managing Kipsaina wetlands in partnership with KWS. Their model largely resembled the new approach to conserving lake Ol Bolosat that the project sought to promote thus the local community felt it was workable and they have begun to apply the same. It further deepened the understanding of the local community on the co-management of natural resources as well as how to catalyse community involvement and participation in wetlands management.**

**2. Driving various project processes by the relevant stakeholders ensures efficiency and enhances the chances of success. The project utilized an approach in which the government process is driven by government agencies and**

community-based initiatives driven by the local community. This instilled a sense of responsibility and ownership among stakeholders.

3. Involving local leadership especially chiefs and assistant chiefs are critical in ensuring resolutions in the project activities are being implemented. Their goodwill ensures smooth project implementation and wider outreach in creating awareness within the larger community. The local chiefs and their assistants were very critical in helping reduce the tension that arose after the declaration of the lake as a protected area. Enhancing understanding among them led to the understanding among the larger community.

4. Full involvement of stakeholders especially the local community and consultants at the project design is very critical. We learned this when we didn't involve the pre-listed consultants during the project design and that resulted in a case where some important activities were either not budgeted for or their costs underestimated. Involving the consultants in the project design help paint a clear picture and promotes a common understanding at the onset.

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

Summarize the successes 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.

- **In strengthening the umbrella CBO formed and registered during this project, we have made it recognized by the key stakeholders working in Lake OI Bolossat as the entry point to the community working to conserve lake OI Bolossat. During our visit to Kipsaina Cranes and Wetlands Conservation Group (KCWCG) a well established CBO currently working in 5 counties accepted to partner with LOCCOG to strengthen their governance through training and more exchange visits - a memorandum of understanding is yet to be signed between the two. EAWLS also supported LOCCOG to put up an application that was submitted to the County Government of Nyandarua under the climate change program being supported by World Bank. The Group is legally registered. We held a meeting with Wetlands International who is also a grantee of CEPF, agreed to support the operations of the Group for the next one year (this plan will be finalized in January).**
- **Finalization of the Management Plan - in our engagement with NEMA Wetlands Department, they indicated that it was their target to have Lake OI Bolossat management plan reviewed and thus have expressed commitment to support the finalization of the plan. County Government of Nyandarua has allocated funds to support the launch of the Plan in a big way to attract partners to support its implementation. We intend to finalise the co-management framework and have it ratified during the launch of the plan. This notwithstanding, the different stakeholders clearly made commitments towards the implementation of the plan by including them in their annual plans. County directorates indicated their intention to incorporate the IMP in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) during the mid-term review scheduled for next year.**
- **We have an ongoing project on governance that will ensure our continued presence in the project area. We are also in discussions with an**

**organization based in the Netherland who are interested in negotiated approach to water governance and were waiting for the finasation of the management plan.**

## **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.

**See attached**

## **ADDITONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Further support to:**

- 1. Comprehensive 2 phase Biodiversity Assessment to produce more reliable baseline information on biodiversity and water quality for Lake Ol Bolossat.**
- 2. Strengthening the co-management framework for Lake to ensure its operation. This would provide a good learning platform for other KBAs/wetlands in Kenya.**
- 3. To promote financing for the implementation of the new management plan, there is a need to develop Conservation Investment Plans (CIP) for the Lake.**

**Overall comments:**

**We want to sincerely thank the CEPF secretariat and the RIT for the financial and technical support we have enjoyed in the past 16 months. The approach of capacity building grantees and creating platform for them to share experiences and lessons is unique and should be strengthened to give CEPF a competitive advantage in using the CSOs as agents to meet the global biodiversity targets in the hotspots. We can enhance cross-learning among the different hotspots. CEPF should also consider working with similar CSOs going forward to ensure the continuation and real impacts as most projects have ended as work in progress. We will regularly provide updates on what we are doing to continue with the work started under this project.**

## **ADDITONAL FUNDING**

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization or region as a result of CEPF investment.

**Total additional funding (US\$)**

\$15,875.28

**Type of funding**

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 additional funding received fall under type B (Grantee and Partner Leveraging)**

**1. EAWLS' project on "*Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management through Capacity Building and Harmonised Approaches; Case of Lake Ol Bolossat, Kenya*" by Rufford Foundation - USD 13,078.62**

**2. NMK received USD 15,000 from Birdlife International to conduct Rapid Biodiversity Assessment for Lake Ol Bolossat - the results provided baseline information on biodiversity and water quality which formed an integral part of the integrated management plan review process for the lake.**

**3. In-kind contribution to the project by EAWLS - USD 2,796.66**

## **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 website, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

- 1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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