

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Blue Ventures Conservation
Project Title:	Strengthen Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Madagascar through Health-Environment Partnerships
Grant Number:	CEPF-103521
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
Grant Amount:	
Project Dates:	July 01, 2018 - June 30, 2020
Date of Report:	August 29, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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

Please see supporting document 'Implementation Partners' for more details.

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 succeeded in its aims to advance the integration of family planning and other health services with community--based natural resource management and biodiversity conservation efforts in Madagascar. It has done this by fostering connections and building technical capacity among implementing organisations, refining and documenting best practices, and building support among policymakers and funders to create an enabling environment for institutionalising such cross--sector programming in the long-term. There are now 24 active PHE partnerships in Madagascar reaching more than 350,000 people across both marine and terrestrial biodiversity hotspots. In terms of quantitative results, more than 33,000 Couple Years of Protection (CYP) have been provided by member organisations since the PHE network was formed in July 2014. The Government of Madagascar's interministerial Health-Environment Working Group is now committed to creating a national PHE policy framework, following a multi-stakeholder showcase event held by the PHE network in November 2019. PHE network members are currently reaffirming the value of a PHE approach through their cross-sector responses to COVID-19. Three national coordination meetings, thirteen regional coordination meetings and seven regional training workshops / learning exchange visits have been facilitated over the course of the project. Since the COVID-19

pandemic started, a further national coordination meeting and five regional coordination meetings have been facilitated virtually using the Zoom platform. These meetings and exchanges have been effective in supporting the development of new PHE partnerships, improving the quality of existing PHE partnerships, allowing members to exchange best practices and building engagement among policymakers for this approach. Tailored technical advice has also been provided by the PHE network team to PHE network members including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Lemur Conservation Foundation, the Duke Lemur Center, Centre ValBio, Reef Doctor, the Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group (MFG), Ny Tanintsika, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, SEED Madagascar, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), GERP, Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, the Time + Tide Foundation, and Conservation International (CI). Progress updates by emails, phone calls and in-person meetings were recorded in an online tracking system. In addition to the PHE partnerships guide and story cards already made available to PHE network members in Malagasy, French and English, a suite of COVID-19 posters was created by the PHE network for use in low-literacy rural settings (both coastal and terrestrial). These posters were validated by the Government of Madagascar's national commission for COVID-19 communication and are being used by many organisations across the country with multiple versions to accommodate different dialects. The PHE network has also produced a technical guidance document to support cross-sector responses to COVID-19 including community-based public health actions, livelihood strengthening and adaptive natural resource management initiatives. More than 20 PHE network members have signed up to the PHE network's quality charter, which includes a commitment to human rights-based PHE programming. Seven organisations (Ny Tanintsika, Blue Ventures, Community Centred Conservation, Lemur Conservation Foundation, Marie Stopes Madagascar, JSI Mahefa Miaraka and Population Services International) completed the peer accreditation process through site-based learning exchanges. A further three (HoverAid, SEED Madagascar, Impact Madagascar) participated in a self-evaluation workshop for the PHE quality charter. Three thematic working groups were created and active throughout the course of the project. Members included government ministry partners and member NGO staff. One group organised the multi-stakeholder showcase event held in November 2019. Another group was focused on policy analysis and engagement, and the third group was focused on community outreach. Thirty five community testimonies were collected across eight PHE partnerships sites, and have been used in communication materials (including a brochure - see supporting docs) to illustrate the value of a PHE approach as experienced by community members. Photo testimonies were presented in an exhibition during the multi-stakeholder showcase event attended by high-level representatives of key government ministries, and included in a brochure alongside quantitative results data and best practice case studies.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
X	
More than 250,000 people are provided with increased access to health services, with strengthened community-based natural resource management and biodiversity conservation efforts in these zones.	Madagascar PHE network members are now reaching more than 350,000 people in conservation sites that benefit from increased access to health services and community-based natural resource management, and where biodiversity conservation is strengthened.

X	
An enabling policy and donor environment for further PHE uptake and institutionalization is created with increased leadership on advancing this cross-sector approach demonstrated by the relevant government ministries and key funders, leading to the development of a policy framework that better supports cross-sector programming and the identification of new funders for this approach.	A policy review was completed to identify gaps and opportunities for inclusion of PHE in new / existing policies. A national PHE showcase event was held to build support for PHE policy initiatives among high-level government ministry officials. Following the showcase event, policy makers expressed their interest and support to promote the PHE approach at the national level, create a national PHE policy framework and reinforce collaboration between the government, PHE network and NGO partners to ensure more effective impacts at community level. A strong collaboration with the Government of Madagascar's inter-ministerial Health-Environment Working Group (Groupe de Travail en Santé et Environnement (GTSE)), is in place to coordinate activities to create a policy framework. The PHE network's policy working group is actively following up with technical assistance to support the development of this policy framework at the request of the GTSE and associated ministries. New funders for this approach have been identified and engaged. USAID is integrating a PHE approach into all of its programming in Madagascar, and the UK government is due to provide follow-up support for the PHE network.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least 20 terrestrial and marine conservation zones (including several CEPF priority ecosystems) will be benefiting from more effective community based conservation and natural resource management.	There are now 24 active PHE partnerships (each has its own zone/site - 11 marine and 13 terrestrial) in Madagascar, increasing the effectiveness of community-based conservation by addressing priority unmet health needs. These partnerships include the following CEPF priority ecosystems: Ambodivoahibe Marine Protected Area (MPA) (Conservation International), Velondriake MPA and Barren Isles MPA (Blue Ventures) and the Baie de Baly and Ankarafantsika national parks (Madagascar National Parks).
At least 15 environmental and health organisations working across Madagascar have sufficient technical capacity and confidence for cross-sector PHE partnerships.	19 organisations (Blue Ventures, the Lemur Conservation Foundation, the Duke Lemur Center, Centre ValBio, Community Centred Conservation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Cétamada, Reef Doctor, Ny Tanintsika, the Durrell Conservation Wildlife Trust, Marie Stopes Madagascar, JSI/Mahefa Miaraka, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Primates Study and Research Group (Groupe d'Étude et de Recherche sur les Primates (GERP)), Impact Madagascar, HoverAid, RanoWash and Sadabe) have sufficient technical capacity for cross-sector PHE partnerships. Organisations have established partnership MoUs, conducted joint activity planning and implementation with partner organisations, participated in regional and national coordination meetings, received training on PHE network tools (PHE story cards), and hosted PHE meetings and events.
At least 3 health organisations / projects will improve access to health services, in accordance with community need, in areas of high biodiversity.	Six organisations (Marie Stopes Madagascar, PSI, JSI/Mahefa Miaraka, USAID ACCESS, HoverAid and PIVOT) are all increasing access to health services for communities located in areas of high biodiversity.
At least 5 environmental organisations incorporate support for and the implementation of PHE partnerships into their strategic plans.	14 organisations (the Duke Lemur Center, the Lemur Conservation Foundation, Blue Ventures, Ny Tanintsika, Centre ValBio, Cétamada, Sadabe, Community Centred Conservation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Reef Doctor, GERP, Impact Madagascar, SEED Madagascar and the Durrell Conservation Wildlife Trust) have all incorporated PHE partnerships into their strategic plans. In addition, 11 organisations have signed MoUs with Blue Ventures to outline the specific activities and areas of their collaborations, which are entered into their work plans. The Durrell Conservation

	Wildlife Trust has also designed a special work plan for their collaboration with Marie Stopes Madagascar.
At least 20 PHE partnerships are active in terrestrial and marine conservation zones, combining the funded activities of health and environmental organizations to address unmet community health needs and improve human well-being in these zones.	24 PHE partnerships are active in terrestrial and marine conservation zones. For example, for communities located near the Nosy Hara MPA, Madagascar National Parks and Community Centred Conservation partnered with JSI's Mahefa Miaraka project to address priority water needs by constructing wells. In Ambanja, Blue Ventures and the Ministry of Health collaborated to support the construction of community health huts, which enable community health workers to provide quality health services and consultations to people living in remote villages.

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

The project has been successful in achieving its impacts through a partnerships-based approach. One of the successes of the project was strengthening the collaboration between PHE network members, including organisations working in the conservation and health sectors, and building connections between these implementing organisations and relevant government ministries through national and regional coordination meetings. Thanks to this sustained engagement with ministry officials over the course of the project, the PHE approach is now recognised as being pertinent and effective for biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. It is also gaining traction among implementing organisations, with many conservation non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) now having active PHE partnerships with health service providers at their sites.

Training workshops and learning exchange visits were successful in strengthening the technical capacity of PHE network members. Sharing of practical experiences and benefits of the approach encouraged many organisations to develop their own cross-sector partnerships. The peer accreditation process ensured that PHE network members are considering the quality of their partnerships and committed to rights-based programming. Policy advocacy training, the completion of a PHE policy review and the organisation of a multi-stakeholder PHE showcase event successfully built high-level support for this approach among key government ministries. Involving community members and creating space for their voices at this national event, giving them the opportunity to interact directly with policy makers, was also important for the project's success.

Key challenges faced by the project included staff turnover within government ministries, which required recurrent relationship-building efforts by the PHE network team. As a result, resources have now been developed to more easily brief incoming ministry staff on the PHE approach and the PHE network's strategic contribution to government priorities. Another challenge faced by the project has been the impact of COVID-19, leading to travel restrictions and disruptions to member activities. However, this also presented an opportunity to strengthen digital skills of PHE network members and increase the frequency of their connections through online meetings.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Multifaceted positive impacts of a PHE approach were captured by the project and PHE network through the collection of a series of community testimonies at PHE partnership sites across Madagascar. Community members spoke about the

benefits of a PHE approach for their health, well-being, livelihoods and future. They highlighted the ways in which their own health is linked to the health of the environment, and how good community health supports local biodiversity conservation and natural resource management efforts. COVID-19 had some negative impacts on PHE programming in Madagascar, as implementing organisations faced travel and meeting restrictions. However, this also presented an opportunity for PHE network members to mobilise cross-sector responses to the pandemic and prove the value of a PHE approach in supporting communities to prepare, protect themselves and adapt. PHE network members were able to leverage their operational infrastructure, community relations and cross-sector expertise to promote public health actions, distribute hand washing supplies and educational messages, strengthen supply chains and livelihoods, and ensure community-based natural resource management initiatives continued to function well.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Enhancing the knowledge base, technical capacities and confidence of 35 environmental and health organizations to establish cross-sector PHE partnerships.	1.1	10 new PHE partnerships established, evidenced by signed memoranda of association, no. of coordination meetings held, joint missions and data sharing within the new partnerships. The PHE Network Coordinator conducts individual follow-up check-in visits.	Since the beginning of the project, 16 new PHE partnerships have been established. During this reporting period, SEED Madagascar and Marie Stopes Madagascar established a new partnership, which included a memorandum of understanding. In addition, new partnerships are being established between Time + Tide Foundation and Marie Stopes Madagascar; and Wildlife Conservation Society and the Ministry of Public Health. The USAID RanoWash project is establishing partnerships with three conservation organisations: Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group, Centre Valbio and Conservation International. PHE partnership progress is tracked by the PHE network coordinator and support officer using an online system.
1	Enhancing the knowledge base, technical capacities and confidence of 35 environmental and health organizations to establish cross-sector PHE partnerships.	1.2	7 regional regional training workshops and site-based learning exchanges organized for all partners involved in the 15 existing PHE partnerships as demonstrated by participants lists and	Three regional training workshops and site-based learning exchanges were held in year one of the grant, and four were held in year two.

			meeting reports.	
2	Enhancing operations of the PHE Network to respond better to the learning, development and advocacy support needs of its membership.	2.1	3 thematic PHE working groups active: to strengthen support for the network, advance network objectives & broaden ownership of the network by its members, as demonstrated by meetings & an annual report of the network's activities by the PHE coordinator.	The three thematic working groups are active and include members from NGO staff and ministry representatives. The first group is a policy group that develops a policy engagement strategy to support an enabling environment for PHE adoption, the second group organised the high-profile PHE showcase event, and the third group designs outreach materials to be used at the community level. The working groups have helped to advance the PHE network's policy objectives, increase the visibility of the PHE approach at the national level, and equip PHE network members with community tools to respond to COVID-19.
2	Enhancing operations of the PHE Network to respond better to the learning, development and advocacy support needs of its membership.	2.2	2 coordination meeting and/or 1 learning exchange visit in the field organized and led by respective PHE focal points.	<p>A regional coordination meeting in the northeast (Toamasina) was organised and led by the RanoWash project, which is now a PHE network member. A learning exchange visit was also organised and led by Blue Ventures in Ambanja, northern Madagascar, bringing ministry officials and NGO staff together to visit their PHE activities in the field.</p> <p>A regional coordination meeting was led by PIVOT in Ranomafana (southeast Madagascar), and a sub-regional PHE network / hub was created from the organisation's own initiatives with partners in the region.</p>
2	Enhancing operations of the PHE Network to respond better to the learning, development and advocacy support needs	2.3	PHE network activities are linked with CEPF outcomes and targets as a result of the participation of the PHE Network	The PHE network coordinator attended the CEPF grantee meeting in Nosy Be, the PHE network team participated in the CEPF mid-term evaluation workshop in December 2019, which was held in Antananarivo and allowed the team to present the PHE approach, PHE network and results from PHE partnerships.

	of its membership.		Coordinator at CEPF grantee meetings.	
3	Increasing PHE network advocacy and outreach capacities to promote the uptake of multi-sector conservation programming by key decision-makers and funders.	3.1	30 PHE results and community testimonies collated through the PHE network's online knowledge management system, which is currently in its pilot phase, that demonstrate the value of the PHE approach to achieving development and conservation outcomes.	35 community testimonies have been collected in eight PHE partnership sites (Ranomafana, Nosy Hara, Ambanja, Morondava, Ambalavao, Sambava, Maroantsetra and Ifaty). Family planning service delivery data have been collated for 10 PHE partnership sites, and are being inserted within the PHE network's knowledge management system.
3	Increasing PHE network advocacy and outreach capacities to promote the uptake of multi-sector conservation programming by key decision-makers and funders.	3.2	One policy review identifying PHE gaps and opportunities in national policy and one policy advocacy strategy to encourage greater inclusion of the PHE approach in national health and environment policy frameworks.	The PHE policy review was completed in close collaboration with the GTSE and the main findings were presented at the high-level national PHE showcase event in November. The PHE network has received an invitation from relevant government ministries to provide non-partisan technical assistance for the development of a national PHE policy framework, and will be working closely with the GTSE to deliver this.

1	Enhancing the knowledge base, technical capacities and confidence of 35 environmental and health organizations to establish cross-sector PHE partnerships.	1.4	10 organizations sign the PHE quality charter that contains the agreed standards and principles of a PHE approach, and 5 organizations peer-accredit the PHE quality charter adherence process.	21 organisations have signed the PHE quality charter since its launch in June 2018. Seven organisations (Ny Tanintsika, Blue Ventures, Community Centred Conservation, Lemur Conservation Foundation, Marie Stopes Madagascar, John Snow Incorporated (JSI) Mahefa Miaraka and Population Services International) completed the peer accreditation process through site-based learning exchanges, and the organisations that participated in the self-evaluation have noticed ways to improve collaboration with their partners and strengthen their cross-sector partnerships.
1	Enhancing the knowledge base, technical capacities and confidence of 35 environmental and health organizations to establish cross-sector PHE partnerships.	1.3	A tool box on how to establish, develop and manage PHE partnerships is made available to at least 35 organizations in hard copy and online.	A comprehensive PHE partnerships guide is available to all 40 members of the PHE network via their online members' portal. Hard copies of PHE story cards have also been distributed to NGO members of the PHE network. The PHE quality charter, which serves to improve the quality of PHE partnerships, has been signed by 21 organisations. COVID-19 resources have been distributed to all PHE network members.

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

PHE showcase brochure Brochure showcasing five years of the PHE network, core components of a PHE approach, best practice case studies, community testimonies, quantitative results, and the PHE network's ambitious 2025 vision. **PHE testimonies** Collection of photo testimonies with short quotes from community members at PHE partnership sites across Madagascar documenting their experiences of a PHE approach: links between health and the environment in their daily lives, positive impacts of PHE programmes. **COVID-19 technical guidance & posters** A short technical guidance document to support conservation and health organisations to respond to COVID-19 together, highlighting how cross-sector partnerships can be leveraged to mobilise communities to take public health actions, strengthen livelihoods resilience and support adaptive natural resource management. **PHE quality charter** A document outlining the core components needed for high quality, rights-based, integrated PHE programming. Used by PHE network members for peer accreditation and/or self-assessment to

quality assure their work. PHE policy review (uploaded as a supporting document)A summary report outlining key gaps and opportunities in existing policies in Madagascar relating to PHE integration. This was completed and used during the project to engage key policy makers and build support for the creation of a national PHE policy framework. Other - please see other documents uploaded, including evidence of national and regional coordination meetings, the PHE showcase event, COVID-19 resources and policy documents.

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

Key lessons learned included the importance of adapting capacity building approaches to different organisations' needs and learning preferences. Different tools and approaches may be suitable for different organisations, for example, whether practical training workshops or more detailed technical documentation. While working across such diverse contexts and with different member organisations, the PHE network team remains flexible and open to a variety of approaches. For example, in response to COVID-19 some technical guidance was produced and this was followed up by webinars for organisations to ask questions and exchange learning face-to-face (online). An official launch of the project at the start could have been valuable to clarify the objectives to partners and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project.

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.

The project is set to be sustained through the connections formed among PHE network members. NGOs and CBOs at the regional level are taking increasing initiative to maintain open lines of communication and coordination with regards to community-level PHE partnerships. Strong government engagement at the national level is due to lead to the creation of a national PHE policy framework, which will institutionalise and embed this approach in Madagascar's conservation sector. It will also ensure that incoming ministry staff are informed about the approach and understand how it supports the achievement of government objectives. Documentation of community testimonies and best practices during this project provide a good foundation for further learning and exchange in the future. New ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemic have shown that it is possible to coordinate a network remotely and still follow up on daily activities. However, having the technical capacity and logistics (strong internet connection, laptop) is needed to ensure PHE network members can remain connected and

involved. The project is set to be sustained through follow-up grants from other funders, including the UK government (three years of funding confirmed in 2020). CEPF support has been critical in enabling the PHE network to grow and position itself for future funding opportunities.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemicIn response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 20 March 2020, the Government of Madagascar put in place restrictions on all face-to-face meetings. The PHE network has therefore been conducting virtual meetings and workshops since then, and all staff have been working from home as a result of restrictions on movement in the capital Antananarivo.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

On behalf of all of our team, we would like to thank you CEPF for your continued support for our work.

ADDITIONAL 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\$)

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)

A Project Co-financing Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust - Expanding Madagascar's PHE Network (May 2020 to April 2021) - USD \$52,000 Rasmussen Family Foundation - donation for Barren Isles Safidy work - Developing Madagascar's Population-Health-Environment (PHE) Network (July 2017 to March 2020) - USD \$50,000 Anonymous Donor - Scaling up Blue Ventures' Holistic Approach to Marine Conservation and Community Health - USD\$99,354 UK Aid Connect [Marie Stopes International] - Building Resiliency and Gender Equality of the Most Marginalised Communities through Multi-Sector Approaches to Delivering Quality Sexual and

Reproductive Health and Rights (co-creation phase - January to June 2020) - USD\$61,113

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, 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.

Laura Robson, Blue Ventures Conservation, The Old Library, Trinity Road, Bristol, UK, BS2 0NW