

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	
Project Title:	Study of Distribution, Status and Dynamics of Private and Group private forests in Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor in Southern Maharashtra
Date of Report:	
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CEPF Region: Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 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: \$ 14121.00

Project Dates: September 2009 to January 2012

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

The study was performed with help of the following partners:

1. WRCS was the parent organization through which the project was carried out. WRCS provided office space, communication facilities and administrative support for carrying out the project.
2. Mr. Swapnil Chaudhari from University of Cambridge, UK carried out the GIS analysis of the Land Use Land Cover maps to estimate area of private forests in the study area
3. Mr. Guruprasad Malkar and Mr. Kedar Munishwar of Envirolegal forum carried out a legal analysis of the statutory regime governing management of private forests
4. Ms. Divya Narain an independent consultant carried out an analysis of feasibility of using compulsory and voluntary carbon market, and payment for ecosystem services in conservation of private forests

The project has identified the following main partners for conservation of private forests in the study area:

1. Private forest owners
2. Forest Department
3. Social Forestry Department
4. Government of Maharashtra

Conservation Impacts

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

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

It was implemented in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor which is a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF Ecosystem profile. The project has identified the extent and distribution of private forests in this region which

has highlighted the importance of private forests in biodiversity conservation in this region (Appendix 1). It has identified the various issues and factors that govern the management of these forests by their owners. Resolution of these issues will go a long way in conservation of private forests. The project has identified the major partners in conservation of private forests, namely the owners themselves, the State Government, the Forest Department and the Social Forestry Department.

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

The project has achieved the following achievements:

Objective	Achievement
To determine the extent and distribution of private and group private forests in the districts of the study area.	This objective has been achieved
To study the dynamics of land use on private and group private forests including attitudes, information levels, economic factors, social factors and statutory.	This objective has been achieved in various chapters of the final report. The social and economic issues that people have regarding private forests, their practical problems and the impact of the statutory regime on private forests, all have been analysed in the report
To recommend suitable mechanisms and technologies for conservation of tree cover and biodiversity on private and group private forests.	Various mechanisms have been recommended for conservation of private forests. The two major mechanisms identified are: (i) Sustainable forestry allied with compatible activities and (ii) Payment for ecosystem services including biodiversity conservation by (a) government, (b) end users of watershed services such as Irrigation Department and Hydroelectricity generation companies or (c) through global carbon market.
To map the land, including private forest, in critical link areas between identified site outcomes and explore possibility of strengthening the links by protecting private and group private forests in these areas.	The private forests in the study area have been mapped and the areas important for conservation of private forests have been identified. The criteria for identifying important areas are extent of private forests in a compact block and their corridor value.
To identify possible future partners, both organisations and individuals, that can help in conservation of private forests.	The state government has been identified as the most important partner because government policies, to a great extent, determine the actions of the owners regarding land use on private forests. Introduction of enabling policies and providing a supportive regulatory environment that gives positive incentives to protection and sustainable utilization of private forests is the most important factor for conservation of private forests. Supportive role by the Forest Department and Social Forestry Department is also important for conservation of private forests. A suggestion has been made by a reviewer for using the model of a forest bank for protection of forests. We are currently implementing a project for conservation of private forests in Koyna-Chandoli corridor. We shall explore these possibilities for implementation in this project.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Not applicable

Species Conserved: Not applicable

Corridors Created: Not applicable

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

The project was successful in achieving its short term objectives of analyzing the dynamics of private forests, determining extent and distribution of private forests and in recommending strategies that will help in conservation of private forests. The long term goal of this study is the actual conservation of private forests. The present study will definitely contribute in achieving this goal.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None

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.

During the implementation of the project we involved other experts/partners in various components of the study. We found that this collaborative effort added value to the study because it brought diverse perspectives and expertise to the study.

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

Reason for success: We selected a topic that was important and looked at several issues related to the topic.

Shortcomings: A few issues were missed from the study

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

Reason for success: *We invited contributions from various experts*

Shortcomings: A few issues were missed from the study

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- i. Government regulations and policy regime are very important for biodiversity conservation
- ii. The issue of private forests needs to be tackled at multiple levels including (a) level of local community, (b) level of department functioning and practices and (c) government policy

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
UPS Foundation	B	USD 15,260	A project has been initiated in the Koyna-Chandoli Corridor to motivate local community for conservation of private forests
WRCS	A	USD 3823.64 (Rs.185064.29)	WRCS contributed the grant amount to my CEPF project and enabled me to complete the project satisfactorily.

**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 implementation of conservation projects depends strongly on donor funding and it is important to demonstrate the feasibility and social benefits of the project to receive a grant for implementation of the project. We were fortunate that we could demonstrate this successfully and therefore received a grant from the UPS Foundation for a project for conservation of private forests in the Koyna-Chandoli Corridor to sustain this initiative. We hope to make the Koyna-Chandoli corridor into a demonstration area for the project concepts. Success of the project in this region will demonstrate the soundness of the project concepts and will help in their wider acceptance in Maharashtra Western Ghats.

We have already conducted two presentations of the preliminary project findings to officers of the Maharashtra Forest Department. We will make further presentations at the level of the State Government and push for policy changes that have been recommended in the project report. We hope that the project recommendations will be accepted and implemented by the government. Institutionalizing the recommendations of the project will be a major success of the project and will help to ensure the sustainability of the recommendations made under this project.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None so far. The sustainability achieved so far has been mostly as per plan.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Not applicable.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

September 2009-January 2012

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 September 2009 to January 2012. (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			
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			
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.	No			The project was a study hence there were no on ground achievements from the project. However the follow up on project recommendations at various levels is expected to have substantial positive impact in this respect in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor which was the study area for the project.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			Same as above
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			Same as above

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

The main project outcome is the Final Technical Report. The report throws light on private forests in Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor that has important implications for biodiversity conservation in this region. Some of the concepts identified in the report have relevance for biodiversity conservation outside this region also. A number of important policy recommendations are made in the report. Implementation of these policy recommendations is a much-needed follow up action that is required and the organization that I represent (WRCS) is committed to doing this. This Final Project Completion Report should be read together with the Final Technical Report of the project.

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.

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List of Appendices:

Technical Report: Distribution, Status and Dynamics of Private and Group private forests in Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor