

## **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	African Research Association
<b>Project Title:</b>	Sustainable Actions for Conservation of Obudu Plateau (SACOP), Nigeria
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-103792
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Guinean Forests of West Africa
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	1 Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$208,174.21
<b>Project Dates:</b>	June 01, 2019 - July 31, 2021
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 18, 2022

### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

1. Organization for Positive Sustainable culture in Nigeria (OPSCN) was responsible for providing technical support to implement "Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation component of the sustainable Action for Conservation of Obudu Plateau (SACOP) project.
2. Community Beneficiaries as partners are involved in the selection of benefitting households, provision of land for the tree nursery, support collection of indigenous tree seeds/seedlings for the nursery. Provided labor for the transplanting and nurturing of the ten thousand tree seedling transplanted.
3. Becheve Nature Reserved provided on the ground and information on where to site tree nurseries, vegetable farms and also participated in forest management and restoration activities.
4. Forest Management Committees and Community Town Councils assisted ARA in project supervision, implementation of bye-laws and played a leading role in tree planting and Woodlot Management Action Plan Development and Implementation process. They are the custodians and main managers of the Natural Resources Management Plan document, while the Chiefs and Elders council will play an oversight role to the FMC and CTC.
5. Cross River State Forest Commission provided technical guidance to build the capacity of FMCs and made available, relevant policy documents needed to review existing bye-laws to be incorporated in the Natural Resources Management Plan.

6. Cross River National Park with a role as managers of the Protected Area in the plateau, shared experiences on efficient/effective approaches and methodologies that will promote sustainable management of Obudu Plateau.

7. Obanliku Local Government Council assisted in mobilizing community-integrated stakeholders' participation and commitment in the project.

## CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>70,743 hectares of Montane forest of the Obudu Plateau under enabling condition for sustainable management and biodiversity conservation as a result of sustainable agricultural practices adopted, revised forest conservation bye-laws and natural resources management strategy developed</p>	<p>The community-led Natural Resource Management Strategy has been developed, validated and currently in use. The revised forest conservation bylaws are also enshrined in this document that is already enforced in all the project communities. Community Land Use Plans were developed in 12 communities.</p> <p>Adopting best agricultural practices with the farmers to enhance sustainable management of natural resources while providing food and income for households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11 temperate vegetable farms were cultivated in 6 communities;</li> <li>- organic natural pesticides (Neem leaves and Pepper) were used to control insect infestation in the farms and the farms were established measuring 20 meters away from watershed.</li> </ul> <p>The Forest Management Committees (FMCs) and Community Town Councils (CTCs) in 11 project communities carried out annual fire tracing of their community forest which has led to a reduction in the number of fire incidents occurring at the plateau. The raising and planting of 17,082 indigenous tree seedlings in 8.0 hectares, establishment of community woodlots, annual fire tracing, conservation awareness trainings and sustainable livelihood programs held with stakeholders have all increased the awareness and protection of the Obudu Plateau (70,743 ha).</p>
<p>At least 5 hectares of degraded forest area regenerated and 3 hectares of woodlot established with native species resulting to improved KBA management</p>	<p>The project raised and planted 17,082 trees in 8 hectares, against the initial 10,000 trees proposed to be planted for both woodlot and forest degraded areas from the project document.</p> <p>5000 seedlings planted in 3 hectares at Kigol woodlot and 12,082 seedlings planted in 5 hectares at community restoration sites.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>At least 400 households from 4 communities provided with firewood economy stoves resulting in the reduction of about 6 tons of household firewood consumption per day.</p>	<p>The 400 stoves distributed to 400 households are currently in use and has resulted in the reduction of firewood consumption by 15kg per day, thereby reducing pressure from the forest. Most households crave to be given the firewood economy stove as it has helped to reduce firewood consumption and are willing to replicate.</p> <p>All the project beneficiaries have started planting trees in compliance to SACOP project agreement during the distribution of fuel wood cook stove.</p>
<p>At least 250 persons (190 female &amp; 60 male) in 8 communities provided with alternative livelihoods by the end of December 2020.</p>	<p>270 community members (207 Females and 63 Males) benefitted from the livelihood project which was introduced as an incentive for sustainable forest management and has proven to be effective. 11 temperate vegetable farms were established in 6 communities up the plateau with 210 beneficiaries (160 females and 50 males) selected and trained. Also 60 beneficiaries (47 females and 13 males) were trained and empowered with Cassava processing machines. ARA liaised with the Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture for improved cassava cuttings and were distributed to 120 (80 females and 40 males) farmers at Old Ikwette and Ogbakoko communities at the foot of the plateau. In total, 8 communities with 270 beneficiaries (207 females and 63 males) were provided with alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>Most of the activities of the project were dominated by women. In groups that had both men and women, the women played dominant roles and contributed more to the success of the groups.</p> <p>High-yielding improved cassava cuttings were procured and distributed among members to boost cassava production in Old Ikwette and Ugbakoko. The quality of garri, our local staple food, which is a product from cassava has improved.</p>
<p>11 forest dependent communities within and around Obudu Plateau with improved capacity to develop and implement natural resource management strategy, restore degraded forest area and establish woodlot with native species to sustainably manage and conserve biodiversity in the targeted KBA by the end of December 2020</p>	<p>Community members reported that about 70% of their streams are still running in the dry season as a result of shrubs found around the watershed and in the regeneration areas. A community-based Natural Resources Management Plan alongside Community Land Use Plans were developed for the 12 project communities in the Plateau. The developed plans will guide natural resource use and structural development in and around the plateau with strict sanctions on offenders. 2.1 hectares of degraded Egoba forest in Ogbakoko have been reforested with indigenous tree seedlings.</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>The area was designated community forest reserve with severe sanctions put in place against farm clearing, timber and fresh firewood harvesting. Project beneficiaries have started planting trees in degraded areas without financial support from ARA in compliance with the project agreement. The FMC in Opkazange arrested and fined 6 individuals cutting down fresh wood for firewood in their community conservation area. Also, FMC in Old Ikwette arrested and fined a herder who caused unauthorized fire outbreak in their community farming zone.</p>
<p>1 KBA (Obudu Plateau - NGA 9) of montane forest better managed with sustainable forest management practices resulting to about 35% reduction of firewood consumption in 400 households and reduced forest degradation by the end of December 2020.</p>	<p>The 400 stoves distributed to 400 households are currently in use and has resulted in the reduction of firewood consumption by 15kg per day per household, thereby reducing pressure from the forest. More households crave to be given the firewood economy stove as it has helped to reduce firewood consumption of their neighbors and they are willing to replicate. All the project beneficiaries have started planting trees in compliance to the project agreement during the distribution of fuel wood cook stove.</p>

### Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Through continuous awareness and sensitization in both schools and communities, community groups in Keyi, Oshinekpa, Emale, old Ikwette, Ugbakoko, and Anape now collect, nurse and plant indigenous trees in their community's forest patches and also fire trace their forest patches annually with the supervision of Forest management committee (FMCs) and Community Town Council (CTCs).

Livelihood beneficiaries in Old Ikwette are now giving out loans with low-interest rates to their members from the proceeds generated from the cassava processing mills established by the SACOP project, and also improved cassava stems were procured by the groups and shared with each member to boost cassava production in the community. Some households that were not direct beneficiaries now have access to high-yielding cassava cuttings for planting through neighbours (direct beneficiaries).

Firewood economy wood stove is serving dual purposes (cooking and warming of houses from humid temperatures) because it is portable as against the conventional cooking stands that are fixed at kitchens.

27 farmers who are not direct beneficiaries got temperate vegetable seedlings (cabbage, carrot, green pepper and lettuce) to be planted in their private farms.

26 community members received 1,332 indigenous tree seedlings to establish personal woodlots.

There is an increase in cassava yield during harvest at Old Ikwette and Ugbakoko due to introduction of high yielding cassava cuttings. Children from these communities also reported that they have access to 'Garri' (a major staple food patronized by every

household and is processed through grating and frying of cassava tubers using the graters and fryers) which was not available in the community.

## **PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES**

### **Overall results of the project:**

The overall result of the SACOP project is stated as follows:

- 76 stakeholders (22 Females and 54 Males) from 11 communities and Cross River State Forestry Commission were trained on Obudu Plateau Community-led Natural Resource Management Strategic Plan. These include Women's leaders, Youth's leaders, FMCs Chairmen and CTCs Chairmen.
- 36 persons from 6 communities (6 from each community) were trained on tree nursery establishment including grafting, potting, soil mixing, seedbed preparation, seed pre-treatment, root pruning, seed and seedling handling, control of seedling pests and diseases. The trainees are volunteers from project communities willing to support conservation activities.
- 171 FMC and CTC members (105 Males and 66 females) in 12 communities trained on Community Land Use Planning. A '5 year' community land use plan developed with a geo-reference map indicating community land use zones for Obudu Plateau communities.
- 12,082 indigenous tree seedlings were nursed and planted in 5 hectares of degraded forest area in three communities.
- 5000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in 3 hectares' woodlot in kigol community.
- 120 persons were trained on forest fire control and forest protection (60 persons per year) in collaboration with Cross River State Fire Service to carry annual fire tracing around forest patches in the Plateau. Some of the trainees in the first year left the community for greener pastures, resulting to a reduction in the strength and number of forest fire protection team. This led to the facilitation of second badge of training in the proceeding year.
- 400 households (192 M; 208F) in 11 communities were provided with firewood economy stoves resulting in the reduction of about 6 tons of household firewood consumption per day.
- 210 persons (160 Females and 50 males) across six targeted communities on the Plateau; Anape, Okpazange, Keji-Ukwu, Okwa-Amu, Apah-Ajile and Kigol, were trained on sustainable temperate vegetable farming and established one demonstration farm across each community. Farmers were also empowered with improved varieties of temperate vegetables (Carrot, Cabbage, Irish Potato, Lettuce, and Green Pepper) to boost yield and increase income. Some community members are involved in more than one activity in the project as most livelihood beneficiaries are also members of the Forest Management Committees and Community Town Councils and will likely attend more than one training.
- 120 community beneficiaries (107 females and 13 males) were provided with cuttings of high-yielding cassava varieties to increase the rate of cassava production without necessarily expanding farm sizes.

- 4 semi-mechanized cassava processing units including sheds as working spaces (motorized engine with graters (digesters), pressers, sieves, and fryers) were procured and installed in 2 communities (Ugbakoko and Old Ikwette), 2 per community to promote processing and marketing of cassava products, reduce post-harvest loss, reduce pressure on forest use and secure and increase household income.
- 270 livelihood beneficiaries (Female 207 and Male 63) were trained on Entrepreneurship Development.
- 180 persons (61M; 119F) were trained on Business Management and Cooperative Development. 4 cooperative societies were formed and registered with the state.
- Establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism within the Farmers Cooperative Network for all cooperative groups at Obudu Ranch.
- 115 children (20 students and 95 pupils) 7 schools were sensitized on sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation through school conservation clubs.
- 79 Farmers (63 M; 16F) from Okpazange, Ugbakoko, Kigol, Anape, Balegete, Imale, .Apajili, Keyi, Old Ikwette, Okwamu, Oshenikpa, Keji-Ukwu, Imale, and Bisu were trained on Conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. Staff members of law enforcement agencies like the Nigerian Police Force, Ranch Resort Hotel, the Fulanis, NGO partners, and Paramount Ruler of Obanliku were all in attendance.
- 2.1 hectares of degraded Egoba Forest in Ugbakoko community regenerated with indigenous tree seedlings and designated community forest reserve with severe sanctions against timber and fresh firewood harvesting as contained in the community forest bylaws.
- 2 hectares of forest area designated as community reserved forest (Mete Forest Reserve) to enhance regeneration and provide watershed in Old Ikwette community.
- 10.000 listeners across Ikom, Ogoja, Obudu, Bakwara and Obanliku LGAs sensitized on forest management and biodiversity conservation through Radio jingles, by Cross River Broadcasting Cooperation.

**Results for each deliverable:**

<b>Component</b>		<b>Deliverable</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Results for Deliverable</b>
1.0	Community Organizing, and Stakeholders Engagement for Sustainable Management of KBA (Obudu Plateau, NGA9)	1.1	Inception meeting reports	<p>The inception meeting gathered about 893 participants across the eleven communities, in Obudu Plateau, six communities on the Plateau, and five communities at the foot of the Obudu Plateau all in the Becheve Clan. the objective of the meeting is as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create wider publicity and awareness on the project</li> <li>To present the entirety of the project beginning from title to expected impacts.</li> <li>To promote broader participation, ownership and sustainability of the project</li> <li>To enhance understanding amongst community stakeholders and prevent conflict</li> <li>To explain community roles and other stakeholders roles on the project.</li> <li>To advocate for good environmental practices and conservation actions</li> </ul>
1.0	Community Organizing, and Stakeholders Engagement for Sustainable Management of KBA (Obudu Plateau, NGA9)	1.2	Natural Resource Management Strategy & implementation plan	<p>Obudu Plateau Community-Led Natural Resource Management Strategy &amp; implementation plan, 12 communities land use plans and a Geo reference map for Obudu Plateau were developed to create an opportunity to prioritize our competing communities' needs for land and other resources on the plateau, and to collectively dialogue among ourselves and other stakeholders on the sustainable use of these resources.</p>

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#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Ogbakoko and Old Ikwette communities identified 2.1 hectares of Egoba forest and 2 hectares of Mete forest as threatened watershed. They decided to designate these areas as community forest reserves to promote forest restoration activities in order to sustain running streams during the dry season.
2.0	Community Institutions Capacity Building and Livelihood Initiative	2.2	Meeting minutes/reports, data list of project beneficiaries/criteria for selection & signed MoAs	<p>Meeting minutes/reports, data list of project beneficiaries/criteria for selection &amp; signed MoAs, the livelihood beneficiaries' selection, Community Liaison Assistants with the support of the Project Coordinator conducted a general demographic enumeration across the project targeted communities. This was necessary to establish current households and population size per community disaggregated by gender and age. The data generated supported the equitable selection of beneficiaries in each major family unit per community-based on the following agreed criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underprivileged persons from poorer households in each extended family;</li> <li>• Women-led households, widows, and women leaders;</li> <li>• Farmers/hunters whose activities directly affect the forest and biodiversity;</li> <li>• Employed persons or those with good livelihood opportunities did not qualify and</li> <li>• Only persons that accept to contribute in kind to forest regeneration activities such as</li> </ul>

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				nursery establishment, tree planting on degraded sites and woodlot activity were to be considered as eligible. In each community, there was a general community meeting held to identify, screen and select eligible livelihood beneficiaries based on the set and accepted criteria by the community.
1.0	Community Organizing, and Stakeholders Engagement for Sustainable Management of KBA (Obudu Plateau, NGA9)	1.3	Natural Resource Management strategy (NRMS) implemented as demonstrated in monthly reports by FMCs and CTCs and project site visits reports	Natural Resource Management strategy (NRMS) implemented as demonstrated in monthly reports by FMCs and CTCs and project site visits reports. the FMC and CTC meeting is to set the implementation period of this plan for an initial 5 years, after which we will review our performance against reality at that future time and make adjustments as may be required. Meanwhile, within this initial implementation phase of 5 years, we are open to discussing possible amendments so that we are continuously learning and documenting new lessons that will ensure that future revisions are more robust and concise to our needs, the needs of other stakeholders, and the need for sustainable natural resource management in the Plateau. This plan will form the basis for our peaceful coexistence, economic prosperity, rational resource use, negotiations with development partners, and conservation of our natural heritage as a people

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1.0	Community Organizing, and Stakeholders Engagement for Sustainable Management of KBA (Obudu Plateau, NGA9)	1.4	11 communities, including the FMCs & CTCs as well as the government agencies with increased awareness as evidenced from the pre and post project assessments	11 communities, including the FMCs & CTCs as well as the government agencies with increased awareness as evidenced from the pre and post-project assessments; this awareness assessment on natural resource management, is basically to assess community members knowledge and current practices on natural resources use, management and conservation to enable the project to understand what relevant actions could be taken to improve community capacity on forest management and biodiversity conservation.
2.0	Community Institutions Capacity Building and Livelihood Initiative	2.3	250farmers (190 females & 60 males) from the 8 communities with increased sustainable agricultural practices & livelihood management capacities as evidence in the training reports	The training is to build the capacity of livelihood beneficiaries on sustainable agriculture to enable beneficiaries to carry out their respective agriculture enterprises successfully and profitably, and for beneficiaries to understand what sustainable agriculture is all about and practice it, be able to successfully cultivate and produce selected temperate vegetable and be able to control insect pest using natural and less expensive methods.
2.0	Community Institutions Capacity Building and Livelihood Initiative	2.4	Training reports & 4 Cooperative registration Certificate& Business plans	Training reports & 4 Cooperative Registration Certificate& Business plans, 180 persons (61M; 119F) provide knowledge on best business management practices to beneficiaries, To build the capacity of each cooperative group for good financial management, To equipped beneficiaries on

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				<p>capital and investments such as attracting new shareholders and investors by improving creditworthiness and cash flow and To build each cooperative on communication skills and customer care services.</p> <p>4 cooperative society were formed across four communities and certificate were also issues to each cooperative.</p>
2.0	Community Institutions Capacity Building and Livelihood Initiative	2.5	Project progress reports, records from harvest and sales of farm produce	<p>The progress achieved so far with the installation of the 4 semi-mechanized cassava processing mills and shed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cassava processing Mill in Old Ikewtte (group One and Two) has process 775426 kg of cassava which amount to the sum of ₦320,000,000 (\$561.20) only</li> <li>• The Cassava processing Mill in Ugbakoko(group one and group two) has also recorded huge success. They have process 46700kg of cassava and were able to realize the total amount of ₦150,000 (\$283.3) only.</li> <li>• The neighboring communities such as; keyi, Echikwette, Amana, Utanga, and Ranch communities are major beneficiaries of the cassava processing factory.</li> </ul> <p>The third phase of purchase and distribution of temperate vegetable seeds to target beneficiaries and individual farmers were done in early March 2021 and the project provided beneficiaries with improved species of temperate vegetable such as: (Carrot, Cabbage, Irish Potato), and guide them</p>

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				through the entire production cycle from land preparation, cultivation, Tilling, Harvesting, and marketing to respect the land zone in the natural resource management plan and best farming practices respecting slopes and watersheds. The crops cultivated included carrots, cabbages, and Irish potatoes.
3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.2	Meeting reports, GPS maps of sites for reforestation and woodlot establishment	<p>The meeting aimed at replanting degraded forest areas to restore ecological balance and ecosystem services in Obudu Plateau, as well as providing more woodlots to reduce the pressure on the forest from firewood collection. Several actions completed this activity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of degraded forest for reforestation and woodlot by community members led by the CTCs and FMCs; and inspection by the project team to confirm suitability and develop planting plans.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mapping out the area for transplanting for management purposes, having also been identified in the Obudu Plateau Management Plan.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transplanting of the saplings from the nursery, with a total of 17,082 seedlings transplanted covering a total area of 8.0ha.</li> </ul> <p>MAP</p>

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3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.3	Training Reports, Signed MoA, progress report on fire tracing activities	60 volunteers were trained on the 27th and 28th January, 2020. The training is to build the capacity of farmers to be able to carry out routine annual fire tracing activities around forest patches in Obudu Plateau to prevent the destruction of biodiversity, forest ecology, livelihood, and as well as prevent harm to human lives. and fro farmers to understand what is forest fire control/management and fire tracing, be able to know the various causes of a forest fire or bush burning, consequences, and the best approach to manage the situation, understand how and when to conduct fire tracing successfully and be able to use personal protective equipment and prevent fire hazard.
3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.4	Tree nursery establishment, reforestation of degraded community forest and woodlot development Progress Reports for 4 targeted communities	The project worked with the Forest Management Committees to develop nurseries in 6 communities, raising a total of 17,082 tree seedlings and planted in 8.0 hectares. Community members from each of the target communities managed the nurseries to maturity for replanting. The participatory and hands-on approach of involving community members was intentional to demonstrate community ownership and capacity building, which is expected to contribute to the sustainability and replicability of this project. Some of the indigenous tree species transplanted included Carapa procera, Isobelina doka, and Cola parivapa.

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				<p>The breakdown of hectares restored according to communities is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Kigol - 1.2548ha,</li> <li>o Okpazange - 1.2354ha,</li> <li>o Okwa-Amu - 0.5885ha,</li> <li>o Apa-Ajili - 0.5848ha</li> <li>o Old Ikwette – 2.1543ha</li> <li>o Ogbakoko – 2.2151ha</li> </ul> <p>A total of 265 community members participated in the transplanting exercise, including 88 men and 177 women. The breakdown of the trees planted are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Okwa-Amu 1782</li> <li>o Apah-Ajili 1320</li> <li>o Kigol 2280</li> <li>o Okpazange 2700</li> <li>o Old Ikwette 2400</li> <li>o Ogbakoko 2100</li> <li>o OPSCN (project partner) 4500</li> <li>• Total 17,082 trees planted</li> </ul>
3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.5	Signed MoA, M&E reports on stove scheme.	<p>The stove scheme is tied to the reforestation program where solidarity groups and the Forest Management Committee are given the stoves as an incentive to pick, nurse and transplant indigenous tree seedlings in degraded areas. The signing of the 11 Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with project beneficiaries in 11 communities served as a guarantee that the afforestation programme will be sustained by the various communities and is tied to the support of the</p>

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				regeneration programme. The MoA spells out the role of the Community leaders (FMC and CTC), Youths and Women. For examples, establish tree nursery, contribute to the picking of seeds for the nursery, provide labour for transplanting and nurturing of planted tree seedlings, carry out tree planting exercise and participate in the annual Fire tracing programme.
3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.6	11 communities including farmers, hunters and herders with increased awareness on fire prevention and Management evidence from the pre and post project assessments	<p>The result of the post-assessment is categorized into three, community awareness on tree planting, forest management, biodiversity status on natural resource use, forest management, and conservation: Obudu Plateau Communities had increased awareness on tree planting, forest and biodiversity depletion: The assessment conducted revealed that about 75% of community members across the targeted communities are aware of planting indigenous trees to restore forest depletion, loss of biodiversity, damage of watershed/dry up of streams, decline in wildlife population, decline in fire wood, climate change and disappearance of useful tree species and plants caused by human activities over the past year.</p> <p>Natural Resource Use: Information gathered through the awareness assessment also disclosed that the 11 project communities now have active Forest Management Committees,</p>

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				community land use plans facilitated by ARA and have also adopted measures to mitigate forest degradation through fire tracing, nurseries establishment and tree planting on degraded areas. However, from the responses, lack of funding and support has over the past years limited greater achievement.
5.0	CEPF Project management and monitoring for compliance	5.2	Environmental Impact Assessment Plan, and Health and Safety Plan effectively implemented and monitored as evidenced by the programmatic reports and/or dedicated reports	Obudu Plateau is a grassland area and there are recurring cases of fire outbreaks. Farmers benefiting from the project were trained on fire prevention and management practices, including fire tracing technique. This will help to reduce and, to an extent, prevent fire outbreak in farms and the larger forest estates. In addition, because some forest areas are degraded, the project supported, via an extension to the reforestation program of Organization for Positive Sustainability Culture in Nigeria (OPSCN), the development of tree nurseries and subsequent replanting of 8 hectares of degraded areas in 6 targeted communities and establishment of a 3 hectares demonstration woodlot in one pilot community. 4.1 hectares of threatened watershed were designated 'community reserved forest' with severe sanctions in place to regulate timber and firewood harvesting. Knowing that part of these activities will trigger negative environmental impact either to project beneficiaries, ARADIN coordinated

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				<p>the project implementation process to avoid negative environmental impacts during and after the project as part of the delivery approach.</p> <p>ARADIN analysis of the project shows that there are no environmental safeguard issues triggered during the project implementation.</p>
5.0	CEPF Project management and monitoring for compliance	5.3	CEPF financial and programmatic reports submitted online on time and accurately	Detailed financial and Quarterly financial reports are always submitted when due.
5.0	CEPF Project management and monitoring for compliance	5.4	Project impacts monitored and reported online at project end as evidenced by the Final Completion Report	<p>Sustainable Actions for the Conservation of Obudu Plateau (SACOP) project that African Research Association (ARA) is implementing with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Development, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. With the fundamental goal to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>SACOP project is designed to contribute to the CEPF strategic direction 1; which is empowering local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate connectivity at the landscape scale in the Key Biodiversity of Obudu Plateau (NGA9). The project is aimed at supporting the sustainable management of the Obudu</p>

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				<p>Plateau targeting 11 communities in and around the Obudu Plateau who have traditional rights of ownership and use of resources in the Plateau. The project is premised on the continuing pressure on the Obudu Plateau from expanding subsistence farming, increasing firewood harvesting, grazing, and naturally occurring earth movements with the resultant impacts of a decimated landscape. The project also takes note of the absence of a management plan to ensure sustainable use.</p>
5.0	CEPF Project management and monitoring for compliance	5.5	Communication materials are shared with the RIT per email or other online data transfer software	<p>Communication materials are shared with the RIT by email or other online data transfer software. All materials are shared with CEPF RIT by email until January 2021, when CEPF RIT Ms. Ruth came for a monitoring visit to SACOP project sites, on the first she visit tree nursery sites, Temperate Vegetable demonstration gardens across the community, after the monitoring visit with RIT a brief meeting was held which beneficiaries were given an opportunity to express their challenges and lesson learned on SACOP project.</p> <p>On the second day the RIT team moves to Old Ikwette and Ugbakoko communities, before arrival to the community, the communities Leadership, project beneficiaries FMCs and CTCs were already gathered in a colorful attire singing praises expressing happiness for CEPF,</p>

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				ARADIN for finding their communities worthy in implementing SACOP project while expecting the arrival of CEPF RIT and project partner.
2.0	Community Institutions Capacity Building and Livelihood Initiative	2.1	Meeting / Training Reports, draft operational system & ToRs for FMCs & CTCs operations in project implementation, monitoring and management.	The training aimed at providing a shared understanding of the urgent need for integrated forest management and biodiversity conservation around Obudu Plateau. It helped FMCs and CTCs to clearly understand their roles in avoiding conflict of interest or misunderstanding, and also access information on the benefits of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. The training also helped participants to vividly understand the role of Cross River State Forestry Commission in the management of community forest and protected areas. It built their capacities to facilitate integrated proactive measures to sustainably manage the Key Biodiversity Area, Obudu Plateau. Finally, it provided room to build synergy with the Cross River State Forestry Commission for technical support and mentorship during and after the project
3.0	Forest Management, Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation	3.1	Signed contract with OPSCN with ToRs	The agreement was signed on June 1st, 2019 between African Research Association (ARA) and Organisation for Positive Sustainable Culture in Nigeria (OPSCN). As a Partner, OPSCN is responsible for providing technical support to implement Forest Management Restoration and Biodiversity component of

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#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>Sustainable Action for the Conservation of Obudu Plateau Project (SACOP). OPSCN has trained 200 beneficiaries selected from 6 communities for nursery establishment, 17,082 indigenous tree nurseries were raised and planted across 6 communities covering 8 hectares of degraded forest area. 400 firewood economy stoves were procured and distributed to 400 households across eleven communities in Obudu Plateau. Monthly activity and training reports were always submitted to ARA. Quartely progress and financial reports also submitted to ARA.</p>
4.0	Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	4.1	Project progress reports; Annual Project Report; Monitoring and Evaluation Report and End of Project Report	<p>Project Midterm Monitoring Evaluation provides the grantee a great opportunity to bring participants from the implementing communities to evaluate the progress and impact of the project. This is also aimed at creating a common understanding of the project goal/objectives. 56 project stakeholders attended the project evaluation process, which included the Forest management Committees, Community Town Councils, Village Heads (Chiefs), Livelihood beneficiaries, Groups and Youth leaders from target communities, staff of ARADIN, project partners and consultant. The end of project evaluation of the SACOP project informed that all the anticipated short</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				and long-term impacts of SACOP project were all achieved.
5.0	CEPF Project management and monitoring for compliance	5.1	Institutional capacity and understanding of gender issues within ARADIN, effectively monitored as evidenced by the submission of Civil Society and Gender Tracking Tools' at project start and end	<p>The institutional capacity and understanding of gender issues within ARADIN were effectively monitored using the Civil Society and Gender Tracking Tools at project start and end. The institution's capacities increased from 63 to 89 points over the course of the project, while our understanding and integration of gender issues increased from 12 to 15 points.</p> <p>The organization systematically monitors and evaluates the impact of its projects and uses the results to guide the management and design of future projects.</p> <p>The organization regularly produces financial reports and statements, which it makes available to the board and management, and which are always complete and delivered on time. External audits are conducted on an annual basis, and recommendations are implemented.</p> <p>The majority board members are drawn from multiple sectors, and are capable of carrying out functions such as fundraising, public relations, financial oversight and advocacy.</p>

**Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:**

Costway GPS was used to test the indoor air quality pollution, while the Garmin 64 GPS was used to take coordinates for the regeneration area and woodlot. Cutlasses, hoes, diggers, water pumping machines and water reservoirs were used at the farm, woodlot and regeneration sites. protective clothing like head gear, hand gloves and safety boots were given to community participants for fire tracing.

## PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4a	Number of local communities are empowered to engage in the sustainable management of priority sites and/or consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale (target: At least 60).			12	<p>The project contributed to developing a Natural Resource Management (NRM) strategy, 12 Community Land Use Plans and a Geo-referenced map for Obudu Plateau which has created an opportunity to prioritize Obudu Community's competing needs for land and other resources on the plateau and to collectively dialogue among themselves and other stakeholders on the sustainable use of these resources.</p> <p>The project established a woodlot in kigol community as a prototype for firewood extraction in the future. It also established community forest reserves in Ogbakoko and Old Ikwette to regenerate threatened watershed.</p>
1	Number of Key Biodiversity Areas targeted by CEPF grants have new or strengthened			1	The project aim is to restore protected forest and its biodiversity in the selected KBA (Obudu Plateau, NGA9). The project

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
	protection and management (target: At least 20).				supported three communities to regenerate degraded forest areas and a woodlot was established for sustainable firewood extraction. As a follow up, Ogbakoko and Old Ikwette voluntarily established community forest reserves to restore threatened watershed in their communities.
2a	Number of hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use (target: At least 100,000).			12	5 hectares of degraded forest area across 6 communities (Okwa-Amu, Okpazange, Old Ikwette, Ogbakoko, Kigol and Apah-Ajili) planted with indigenous trees 3 hectares of deforested area converted to community woodlot in Kigol, 2 hectares of forest area designated as community reserved forest (Meté Forest Reserved) to enhance regeneration in Old Ikwette community. 2.1 hectares of degraded Egoba Forest in Ugbakoko community regenerated and designated community conservation area.

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
1.4	Number of local communities targeted by sustainable livelihood/job creation activities or benefit-sharing mechanisms show tangible wellbeing benefits (target: At least 30).			1	Four Cassava Processing Mills were established in Ugbakoko and Old Ikwette with 60 members (15 per group, 2 groups per community). Old Ikwette cassava group is making plan to procure and install additional cassava processing mills in the nearby communities (Amana and Echie-Ikwette) outside Ogbakoko and Old Ikwette. We also established temperate vegetable farms in 6 communities (Apah-Ajili, Kigol, Keji-Ukwu, Okpazange, Okwa-Amu and Anape) with a total of 210 group members. 11 farmers replicated the vegetable farms individually.
2b	Number of conservation corridors with public policies and/or private sector business practices incorporating provisions for biodiversity conservation (target: at least 6).			1	Obudu Plateau is located within the corridor Korupmba-Obachap and thanks to the project community bylaws have been developed and are implemented.

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
1.1	Number of local land-use plans elaborated and implemented to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves and concessions (target: At least 15).			12	Community Land Use Plans were developed in 12 communities.
1.2	Number of local and indigenous communities are trained to initiate and advocate for land tenure and forestry reforms in relation to management of community and private reserves and concessions (target: At least 10).			12	Members of the FMCs and CTCs in 12 communities have been trained on Community Land Use Planning and have developed community land use plan with a geo-reference maps indicating community land use zones for Obudu Plateau communities.

## **GLOBAL INDICATORS**

### **Protected Areas**

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

<b>Name of Protected Area</b>	<b>WDPA ID*</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Original Total Size (Hectares)**</b>	<b>New Protected Hectares***</b>	<b>Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion</b>
Egoba Forest Reserve (Ugbakoko)				Nigeria	2	2	2020
Mete Forest Reserve (Old Ikwette)				Nigeria	2	2	2020

\*World Database of Protected Areas

\*\*If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

\*\*\* This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Obudu Plateau	NGA9		70,743

## Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Obudu Plateau	6.4167	9.3667	70,743	Forest Restoration, Community Capacity building and provision of alternative livelihoods

## Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
346	572	Sustainable Agricultural Training: 210 Fire Control and Prevention training: 2 x 60 Conflict Mitigation between Herder and Framers training: 79 Entrepreneurship Development training: 270 Business Plan Development Training: 180 Natural Resource Management strategy plan training: 76 Trees nursery management training: 36 Community Land Use Planning training: 171  Other trainings included Pest Control training and Capacity Building training. Some community members are involved in more than one activity

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		in the project as most livelihood beneficiaries are also members of the Forest Management Committees and Community Town Councils and will likely attend more than one training.

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
63	207	<p>- 210 livelihood beneficiaries (160 females/50 males) empowered with improved temperate vegetables (Carrot, Cabbage, Irish Potato, Lettuce, and Green Pepper) bringing an increase in production. The project will continue supporting the groups to manage farms and access market</p> <p>- 60 community beneficiaries (47 females/13 males) empowered with cassava processing, by providing 4 semi-mechanized cassava processing units with sheds as working spaces, motorized engine with graters (digester), pressers, sieves, and fryers.</p> <p>- Improved cuttings of cassava species distributed by Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture to 120 people (80 females/40 males) to enable community members to increase production rate without necessarily expanding farm sizes. The natural resource management plan already developed has identified the extent of land expansion to help regulate farm expansion.</p> <p>In total, 8 communities with 270 beneficiaries (207 females/63 males) were provided with alternative livelihoods.</p>

## Benefits to Communities

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Okpazange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	61	78
Old Ikwette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	74	93
Ugbakoko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	83	107
Kigol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	52	84
Anape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	41	62
Okwa_amu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	49	76
Keji-Ukwu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	56	65
Keyi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	36	48
Imale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	63	81
Oshinekpa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	46	77
Apah-Ajili	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	58	69

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Akor Nyapene	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigeria	27	34

**Characteristics of "Other" Communities:**

**Policies, Laws and Regulations**

View the <b>topics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Obudu Plateau Land Use Bylaws	Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**"Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:**

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Nigeria	January 01, 2020	To promote forest restoration and biodiversity conservation	Engagement meetings to develop Obudu Plateau Natural Resource Management Strategy

### Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
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### Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Obudu Mountain Resort, Becheve Nature Reserved (BNR), Obanliku Local Government Area, Forest Management Committee (FMCs), CTCs	1996	Nigeria	No	To effectively manage and sustain the Key Biodiversity in Obudu Plateau.

## Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
Farmers Cooperative Network Obudu Ranch	To raise funds for members on sustainable terms and conditions and to accept deposits and loans from members and non-members to augment its resources.	2019	A coalition of farmers groups in 11 communities of Obudu Plateau	Nigeria	Created a mechanism	Householders borrow funds from the cooperative to pay school fees for their children and also support women to establish small businesses to support their households. This in turn reduces their presence in the forest to collect firewood for sale to raise household income. The fund also provide support for refreshment to FMCs during fire tracing and seed collection/planting in project communities.

## Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name (English)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Population Trend at Site</b>
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## **LESSONS LEARNED**

These are the lessons learnt in the course of implementing the project

- Flexibility of the donors in their approach to the project.
- Community cooperation with each other and implementing partners.
- Replication of the project by individuals shows that the project was accepted, owned by the communities and will be sustained.
- Fuel wood economy stove has been very useful in cutting down the rate of firewood consumption in the communities.
- The introduction of livelihood to the community members as an incentive for sustainable forest management has proven to be effective.
- Women and Youths who depend mostly on the forest and natural resources were empowered to increase income and improve their livelihood.

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

The successes of the SACOP project include the following:

1. Established a community-managed woodlot in Kigol.
2. Empowered women and youth on sustainable livelihood options to increase income and improve livelihood.
3. Promoted gender mainstreaming in all project activities to enhance buy-in and replication.
4. Increased community awareness and capacity to manage the fragile montane forest and conserve biodiversity in the plateau.
5. Improved upon community forest regeneration strategy through the development of community-based natural resources management plans and provision of fuelwood economy stoves in communities at the plateau.
6. Built the capacity of Ugbakoko Forest Management Committee and Community Town Council to develop a community-based Natural Resources Management Strategy for their community.
7. The replication of temperate vegetable farms at the Ranch Resort and Cassava farms at the foot of the mountain by individuals, shows that the project was accepted, owned and will be sustained by the community.
8. Developed community-based micro-credit scheme that provides soft loans to community members at low interest rate.
9. Increased food supply and promoted cassava value addition by introduction of high yielding cassava cuttings and miniature cassava processing machines in Old Ikwette and Ugbakoko. These business groups have raised income to procure and install two cassava processing facilities in their neighbouring communities (Amana and Utanga).

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

ARADIN manages the project implementation process to avoid negative environmental impacts mitigated during (SACOP) project as part of the delivering approach for future sustainability.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

ARADIN's plan is to sustain SACOP project in Obudu Plateau beyond this funding period. The project which had been community-driven having awakened the interest of community members to protect and preserve remaining forest patches and the fragile ecosystem in the plateau. This is evident as community members and leaders committed themselves to carry out the under-listed activities during the end of the project evaluation meeting and the RITs team visit to project sites. They include;

- a. Establish tree nurseries with indigenous seedlings to be transplanted in degraded areas and community woodlots annually.
- b. Carry out annual fire tracing to sustain the impact of the SACOP project and improve the living condition of the benefiting communities within the Obudu.

ARADIN's target is to raise funds to assist the communities' complete activities from the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMS) that were not done in some communities due to lack of funds. They include;

- a. To be able to build Perimeter fencing for all regenerated forest areas and woodlot sites to reduce stray animal destruction of trees and unapproved entry by humans.
- b. Produce geo-referenced maps of Obudu Plateau showing different land use zones to reduce conflict, land grabbing, and encourage conservation of forest and natural resources.
- c. Conduct forest inventory in Obudu Plateau. This is intended to help the state review existing forest laws.

As an offshoot from the above, the following activities will be given attention if funds is provided:

- a. To develop NRMS for each community in Obudu Plateau.
- b. Procure and distribute more units of firewood economy stove to other households in Obudu Plateau to further reduce pressure on the forest for fuelwood.
- c. Established woodlot in all Obudu Plateau communities
- d. Update and retrain community Forest Management Committee volunteers to sustain the project and promote replication in sister communities.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$0.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	Application has been developed and sent to World Resources Institute (WRI AFR100) but not yet approved.

## INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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